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GEORGE FRANCIS DOW

Editor

THE MERRILL PRESS
Topsfield
MASS

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Woolsey - 40.00 (30 Vols)

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THE NEWBURYPORT AND DANVERS RAILROADS.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND EARLY WORKING OF RAILROADS IN CENTRAL ESSEX COUNTY.

BY HENRY FOLLANSBEE LONG.

From the first settlement of New England down to a comparatively recent period, the prosperity of its people was derived from agriculture and commerce. Later came industrial development in the manufacture of boots and shoes, and cotton and woolen goods, and with it the necessity for railroads. In the earlier years of the nineteenth century, Newburyport was one of the prosperous trading centers of Massachusetts, but its growth and prosperity did not increase, largely because of its failure to enter into the new manufacturing impulse. It is to this city, however, that railroad development in the central portion of Essex County must be credited. These railroads, as later described, were incorporated as the Newburyport Railroad, the Georgetown Railroad, the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad, and the Danvers Railroad.

For some time previous to the year 1846, the citizens of Newburyport had harbored a grievance against the Eastern Railroad and at last the plan was conceived of building a railroad that should connect the town with the Boston and Maine Railroad at Lawrence, and also open up transportation in the interior of the county through Georgetown, Groveland and Haverhill. The promoters of the new road aimed to control the traffic of the Merrimac Valley and it was claimed that Newburyport thereby would regain in part her earlier importance as a terminal point for trade. The operation of a steamboat on the Merrimac river, between Haverhill and Newburyport, had

proved a wise investment, and through the proposed railroad it was hoped to obtain this traffic, and at the same time replace the heavy teaming between Lawrence and Newburyport by the improved methods of railroad transportation.

The town of Georgetown, at this time, was heavily interested in the manufacture of boots and shoes, and as the railroad was to supply a means whereby the raw material and the finished product could be transported quickly, a large number of prominent citizens were interested in the enterprise, and it is largely due to subscribers in Georgetown, that the railroad was finally completed. Some of the early meetings, prior to the incorporation of the railroad company, were held at Georgetown, and one of the first meetings after the incorporation was also held there, on September 17, 1846. Many of the annual meetings of the railroad were also held in Tenney's Hall in that town.

On March 11, 1846, the Governor of Massachusetts approved an act establishing the Newburyport Railroad Company, as a corporation, the incorporators being Dennis Condry, John Huse, Enoch S. Williams, John Wood and Edward S. Moseley. They were given the right to construct a railroad "from Newburyport to or near Georgetown Corner, . . . beginning at some convenient point between the Newburyport turnpike and the present Eastern Railroad Depot . . . thence southeasterly over or near Common Pasture . . . to a point near the head of the Downfall Road . . . thence continuing southwesterly crossing Parker River near Pearson's Mills, in Byfield, thence north of the Georgetown road, and passing near Dole's Mills in Georgetown, at or near a point of land of Daniel Pusey, about one-fourth of a mile northeast of Savory's Hotel in said Georgetown." The capital stock was to be two thousand shares of one hundred dollars par value. At the same time they were given the right to unite the Georgetown Branch Railroad, which was to run from Bradford to Georgetown Corner, and which had been chartered March 11, 1844, but not constructed. The organization and location of the road was

to be effected before September 1, 1847, and the construction was to be completed before September 1, 1849.

Preparatory measures were taken for early constructive work when a strong effort was made by some individuals to carry the road along the banks of the river through West Newbury. On May 9, 1848, the Newburyport Railroad Company was given the right of choice to pass through either West Newbury or Georgetown, for they were "authorized and empowered to change the location of their railroad . . . beginning at some convenient point between the Newburyport Turnpike, so called, and the present Eastern Railroad Depot, in or near Newburyport; thence running westerly over or near Common Pasture, so called, and northerly of Turkey Hill, in the Town of Newbury, crossing Artichoke River and continuing onward between Archelaus and Pipe Stave Hills in West Newbury to some convenient place for crossing the main road leading from Newburyport to Bradford, thence crossing the same, and passing between said road and the Merrimack River . . . to Bradford." This caused delay and led to new investigations. In order to determine the route which would best accommodate the inhabitants of the several towns in the valley of the Merrimac, and at the same time make a convenient line to connect the Eastern Railroad and Boston and Maine Railroad, nearly two months were spent in a thorough and minute survey of the territory by Mess. Parker and Felton. This resulted in the adoption of a line nearly corresponding with the first preliminary survey made in 1846 by a Mr. Wildes. Still an earlier survey had been made upon which to obtain a charter at the session of 1845, "when Mr. Wiggin and his associates travelled knee deep in snow." The delay in construction was caused not only by a possible change of location, but also by the great scarcity of money that prevailed during that year.

In January, 1848, a mass meeting of the friends of the Newburyport, Georgetown, Lawrence and Lowell Railroad, to run in connection with the Stony Brook road west—an opposition road of the Newburyport Railroad—was held in the Essex House, Lawrence, but nothing came

of the agitation and the proposed road was never chartered.

At the close of the year 1848, the paid in capital stock in the Newburyport Railroad amounted to $4,140, and the expenditures amounted to $1,992.21, which was largely for engineering. The directors at this time were Charles J. Brockway, George J. Tenney, Charles S. Tenney, Joseph B. Morss, Richard Fowler, John Huse and Orin Weston. Only one of these had been an original petitioner for the founding of the corporation. Proposals for masonry and for grading the road to Georgetown, were received by George A. Parker, engineer, and held open till February 15, 1848, being finally awarded to Mess. Gilmore and Carpenter.

The Newburyport Herald states that on February 15, 1849, "ground was broken" on the Newburyport Railroad "about a mile and a half below Georgetown, near the house of Moses Thurlow. This is the deepest cut in the road, being through a gravel hill about 1000 feet, and in the deepest place 16 feet in depth."

On April 9, 1849, the time in which the road was to be finished was extended one year to September 1, 1850, by the legislature.

During the years 1848 and 1849, numerous editorials appeared in the Newburyport Herald describing in detail the advantages of the railroad and proving by figures that the road would pay good dividends, and at the same time the people of Newburyport were urged to subscribe liberally to the stock. Though many people in that city did subscribe money was not forthcoming in sufficient amount to meet the assessments, and the Herald in lauding the citizens of Georgetown for paying "for nearly one-half the road," did not hesitate to say that "Newburyporters" were "hard to collect from" and styled them "croakers." These editorials were largely of no avail. Though "connection with the interior" had been talked about since 1824, no money was in sight now that the road had actually been commenced.

The Herald, under date of May 11, 1849, says, "we passed over the road, on Saturday. Rather more than a

mile of it, and that the worst mile on the route, being the deepest and hardest excavation, about two miles below Georgetown, has been graded. The cost of grading and laying rails estimated at $4,000 a mile. The cost of grading this the worst mile was $2,700, of which the contractor has taken $900 in stock. The iron for the road has been already purchased to be delivered on board in Wales, at $23.70 per ton the lowest point at which railroad iron has ever been sold since its first manufacture. . . . Never we repeat, was such a chance offered a seaport town before, and if neglected now, never will it occur again. If through the indifference of some and the misguided enmity of others, this opportunity should be lost, it will be repented of bitterly when repentance will be too late to save them from condemnation and punishment." Such was the support given by the Herald, in its desire to obtain subscriptions toward the cost of the railroad.

In January, 1850 it was reported that the work on the railroad had been "prosecuted during the year as rapidly as the means of the company would permit, and at the present time, the whole section of eight miles and 179 rods from Newburyport to Georgetown is in such a state of forwardness that a few weeks of favorable weather will suffice to place it in running order. There has been expended for graduation and masonry thus far, $29,794.39 and for superstructure including iron, $27,716.25; for land, land damages and fencing, $4,069.53; for engineering, $3,102.21; and for all other expenses, $1,822.28. Total expenditures, $66,504.66. The rails are lain on about seven miles and a half of the road, and the gravel trains are employed in finishing work." These rails weighed 50 pounds to the yard, which was eight to ten pounds lighter, than rails ordinarily used on roads at that time. "On the remaining portion of the road, about one mile, the road bed is finished, ready for the rails, which will be put down as soon as the weather permits." The capital stock paid in at this time amounted to only $47,987, so that a funded debt of $19,100, with interest at 6 per cent., was established. The capital stock was collected by assessments of ten dollars a share, for each of the last ten months in

the year 1859, being payable to Thomas Davis, the first treasurer.

On May 23, 1850, an agreement was entered into with the Eastern Railroad Company, "and a purchase was made . . . of a part of their road bed and land on the westerly side of their track, from the junction of the two railroads to a point four hundred and forty feet southwest of the southerly end of the tunnel under High Street." The new railroad "also had the right to run its passenger trains into the depot of the Eastern Railroad." For this road bed and privilege of use of depot, the Newburyport company paid $2350.

The Newburyport Herald, under date of May 23, 1850, says regarding the "opening of the railroad to Georgetown," that, "the first section of that improved communication with the interior, which the citizens of Newburyport to their injury, idly talked about and slumbered over, for thirty years, was opened yesterday, and we hope no long time will elapse before the comparatively small sum necessary for its extension to the upper lines will be raised. . . We were disappointed in our anticipations of making one of the company who passed over the road yesterday, but we learn that the reunion was a very pleasant affair, and that the citizens of Georgetown, with their accustomed public spirit, gave the visitors who went up a hearty greeting. Salutes were fired and a band of music was in attendance."

The first notice of the train service on the railroad, published in the Herald, states that, "on and after Thursday, May 23d, Passenger and Merchandise trains will run as follows—Leave Georgetown for Newburyport at 7 1-4 A. M., 10 1-2 A. M. and 4 1-2 P. M. Leave Newburyport for Georgetown 9 A. M., 2 1-4 P. M. 6 1-4 P. M. All the trains will stop at Pearsons' Mills Village. On Wednesday, May 22, the stockholders will pass over the road, and trains will run for their accommodation as follows: Leave Newburyport for Georgetown 10 A. M., 1 P. M., 3 P. M., and 5 P. M. Leave Georgetown for Newburyport 12 M., 2 P. M., and 4 P. M. Stockholders can receive tickets by calling on Thomas Davis, at the Railroad

office, corner Essex and State Streets." In another issue, the paper informs the public that, "stages will be immediately put on at Georgetown to run to Groveland, Bradford and Lawrence. The ride from Georgetown to Groveland will probably not require more than 20 minutes, to Bradford, 40 minutes, and to Lawrence perhaps one hour." The railroad schedules state that "stages from and for Haverhill and North Andover connect with the trains at Georgetown." The Newburyport Herald in an editorial at this time, states that, "Capt. Micajah Lunt, William B. Banister, C. J. Brockway, Capt. Joshua Hale, William Stone, John Wood, Robert Bayley and Richard Fowler," were the Newburyport citizens who were largely responsible for the completion of the road, and in applauding the citizens of Georgetown for their part in the enterprise, says that "George J. Tenney, of that town has been the Ajax of the concern, upon whose strong arm it has leaned in each moment of doubt and difficulty."

Though the road ran about six miles in Newburyport the land damages were very small, as the way, principally, was through rough back pastures. The rest of the road ran through better land, but the land damages were settled amicably.

The first accident on the road, occurred July 18, 1850, when a train was thrown from the track, by coming in contact with a cow, and Benjamin Hilliard, the first conductor, in jumping from the platform of the passenger car, was struck by the car and instantly killed. As fences along the way were not constructed in some cases, the cows in feeding wandered on to the tracks, and it was no uncommon thing to strike two or three cows while on the way to Newburyport from Georgetown. The brakes never worked well on the locomotives, and as a brakeman had to shut on the brakes for each car, the train collided with the cows, even though they were noticed on the track some yards ahead.

The early engines burned wood, mostly oak, sawed into two foot lengths. The town of Boxford, yearly supplied nearly 2000 cords of wood to the Newburyport and other railroads at this time. Though fairly good time was made,

when wood was burned, the slowness of the road was a standing joke. It is reported, that on one occasion the train was so late in arriving at Byfield, that many of the citizens gathered at the station to ascertain the cause of its tardiness. Much was their surprise, when at last, Nathan Carter, the second conductor on the road, was seen coming up the track with a halter thrown over the smoke stack of the engine, leading in the train. The brakes worked so badly, that the train ran into the Newburyport station at one time, and out through the back side of the building, before it was stopped. Another time the engine left the track at Georgetown and was buried in a gravel bank beside the track.

The early engines all had names, the name being painted under the window of the cab, where now are the words "Boston & Maine." The "Bunker Hill" was the first freight engine, and the "Camilla," the first passenger engine. Afterwards were added the "Medford," "Rockingham," and "Cocheco." The railroad was a constant source of jokes and was used to advantage by Stephen Osgood of Georgetown, who wrote the following song which was given at many concerts in the neighboring towns, by the "New England Vocalists," a quartette composed of Miss Abbie Marvel, alto, Stephen Osgood, 1st tenor, A. P. Holmes, 2d tenor, and D. B. Tenney, bass.

The Georgetown Railroad.

With the history of the Georgetown Road, you all may be acquainted,
From the time the ground was broke, until the depot here was painted,
Some people may be ignorant of this prodigious track,
But none will e'er forget it, who've been to Newburyport and back.

CHORUS.

O, the Geergetown Railroad is getting all the go,
The Maine and the Eastern they go so mighty slow,
They may puff and blow and whistle, but 'twill never do to talk,
They think it's against the law to run faster than a walk.

The wonderful "Camilla," with the power of a crow,
Can't run by "Bunker Hill," with the monument in tow.
The "Medford" and the "Rockingham" are sure to spring a leak, O
How I wish they'd get a cooking stove and throw away "Cocheco."

Chorus, —O! the Georgetown Railroad, etc.

Once on a time I took a ride, drawn by the "Bunker Hill,"
And it took us almost twenty hours to get by Pearson's Mill.
I thought 't myself as I gazed out, if the miller'd only bought her,
The trains would soon run regular, for he'd have 'em go by water.

Chorus,—O! the Georgetown Railroad, etc.

They have a traveller now and then, who lives to get clear through
But when he gets to t'other end he don't know what to do,
The people look so different, and he's grown so old and gray,
He's sorry he didn't go afoot, or hire a horse and shay.

Chorus,—O! the Georgetown Railroad, etc.

And when there comes a little snow, or chance, a heavy frost,
Out turn a hundred shovellers, to find the train that's lost,
A cure for this I could devise and help the cause of travel,
'Twould be to have a shed built over, to keep out snow and gravel.

Chorus,—O! the Georgetown Railroad, etc.

And when the train comes creeping in, O! what a row and racket,
The passengers are growling round, "We'd better come with Brackett."
And when to the little man in grey, you call on for a ticket,
How he'll snap himself around to get it, for fear you'll go with Pickett.

Chorus,—O! the Georgetown Railroad, etc.

O! when will men get confidence, and quiet all their fears?
Why, when they burst the engines up and run the trains with steers,
The cars will never get smashed up, nor the oxen melt their flues,
And the so called engineers can be at home a making shoes.

Chorus,— O! the Georgetown Railroad, etc.

The Georgetown Branch Railroad, chartered March 11, 1844, was definitely brought to the attention of the public, on January 2, 1844, when a meeting of the friends of the road was held in Haverhill, to appoint committees, to plan for a survey and location, to gather statistics, and to consult "the directors of the upper road. . . . There was some surprise at the meeting on learning that the directors of the lower road had already taken alarm and had written to the postmaster of Georgetown to have a committee appointed to meet them in making a survey

of a route for a branch to that road."* At a town meeting held in Haverhill, in 1848, Alfred Kittredge, J. H. Duncan, W. R. Whittier, Rufus Longley, and Caleb Hersey were chosen a committee "to appear before the General Court in aid of the petitioners for a railroad from Newburyport to Bradford." On May 22, 1850, a public meeting was held in Bradford "to take measures in aid of extending the Newburyport Railroad from Georgetown to Bradford."

The Haverhill Gazette, under date of January 18, 1851, "is happy to state that at a meeting of the Directors on Monday, the grading of the remaining section of six miles of the Newburyport Railroad from Georgetown through Groveland to the depot of the Boston and Maine in Bradford, was let to Messrs. Gilmore and Carpenter, the enterprising and efficient contractors of the other portion of the road, who are already among its largest proprietors. It is to be constructed with the greatest possible dispatch, consistent with due economy." In the same newspaper under date of January 25, 1851, it appears that "the work of extending the New Railroad to this town, and the Boston and Maine has commenced. Gravel was broken in Groveland last week, and nearly 100 persons have located along the lines. Two large shanties have been erected and several houses and barns have been rented for their accommodation. Ground has been or will be broken at another place in Groveland the present

*This railroad was chartered by "George J. Tenney, Samuel Little, Coleman Platt, Charles S. Tenney, and John B. Savory of Georgetown, George Savory and Jeremiah Spofford of Bradford, and Samuel E. Noyes of West Newbury." It was to run from the turnout track near the depot of the Boston and Maine Railroad in Bradford, easterly, passing near the store of Leonard Johnson; then on the line of most suitable elevation, till it comes near the bank of the Merrimack river, opposite to Silsby's Island, and so down said bank at such distance as may be found best, to Johnson's creek; thence northerly of the house of Stephen Parker, and up the valley of the most easterly branch of said creek, to the easterly side of the building of Benjamin Enoch Nelson, and on the best level to the line of Georgetown, near a stone bound on the road southerly of the house of Enoch Harriman, then northerly of the house of Orin Weston, to near the house of David Perkins; and then southwesterly on the most convenient ground to such place as shall be found most suitable for a depot at or near Georgetown corner." They were given the right to found a corporate union with the Boston and Maine Railroad.

week, and the work will be commenced at the principal cutting at the woods near Johnsons' Creek in Bradford in a few days. Such is the character of the soil that the work of grading has been contracted for at the very lowest rate, or about 15 1-2 cents per yard, taking all risk of rock and hard pan. It is intended to follow the river bank very closely through Bradford, passing under the travelled road, near Haverhill Bridge, and joining the Boston and Maine at the side track near the present depot."

The Haverhill Gazette, during the year 1851, printed many editorials of great length, going into details concerning this road and its prospects, and railroads in general, in the endeavor to arouse enthusiasm among the people of Haverhill and Bradford, who were as backward in subscribing to the railroad stock as has been the people of Newburyport. One of these editorials brings out the interesting fact, that fully 31,850 passengers, 106 a day, had been carried over the road from Newburyport to Georgetown to date, and also, that $30,000 had been paid by the people of Georgetown to get the railroad. The activity of the editor was stimulated about this time by renewed efforts of the supporters of the Georgetown and Lawrence Railroad, which had been chartered May 2, 1849. This road was to run from, and in connection with, the Newburyport Railroad in Georgetown, through Boxford and North Andover, and connect with the Essex Railroad, "near the north parish in Andover." The Essex Railroad had been opened in the summer of 1848, from the "North River in Salem to Methuen," at a cost of $500,000. The beginning of efforts in behalf of the Boxford route was at a meeting of the stockholders at the house of John Brown, in West Boxford, at 2 P. M. on August 27, 1850.

The Lawrence Courier immediately took up the fight for the "Boxford route," maintaining that Lawrence, and not Haverhill was the objective point in either case. The Courier argued, that, "by the Boxford route," the distance was only seventeen miles to Lawrence, and the road would tend to strengthen the "Essex Road," and at the same time receive from the "Essex Road essential aid

in return, which a stronger and more independent company might not be so ready to grant." The Haverhill Gazette had from the first favored the road through West Newbury, but it now fought bravely for the Groveland route.

By the last of August, 1850, the re-survey of the road, by J. N. Cunningham, engineer of the Newburyport Railroad, had been completed, "and the plan and profile," were "in preparation." "The route has been greatly improved in several places," says the Gazette, "more especially in following the river bank closely, by which much damage to land is avoided, an entire level obtained for 2 1-2 miles, below the Bradford depot, and a depot obtained at Haverhill Bridge. By this change a much better road bed is obtained, as the bank is generally of sandy alluvium deposited by the river, and like all levees along great rivers, is generally higher than the background of coarser materials, entirely dry, and is almost uniformly twenty feet above high tide, and very little of it has been covered by any freshet, but twice for a century. With very moderate expense compared with any other route the whole rise and fall of the road might be reduced to little more than the difference of elevation between the river bank and Georgetown depot—about 50 feet. A good view of any town or city, while passing along a railroad, is very seldom obtained. This road by this arrangement will be a most remarkable exception, as regards Haverhill, for almost every building in the town will be seen from the cars, as they run along the opposite bank, forming a most beautiful real panorama." So level was this route, that the road was almost ready for the rails without labor, nearly the distance of 5 1-2 miles to Georgetown. When completed, the grade from Georgetown to Haverhill was 26 feet to the mile. The route through Boxford to North Andover, was 6 1-2 miles and 50 feet in length; grade not exceeding 35 feet, and the estimated cost was $92,000, ready for the cars.

In the Courier, under date of September 7, 1850, we have a fair sample of the sort of editorial written at that time. "The Haverhill Gazette continues its clatter about the *great business* which the town of Bradford would afford

to a railroad from Newburyport . . . it is all pure moonshine, but for today alone." The editorial goes on to say that Lawrence in "ten years will contain more people than Newburyport, Bradford, Georgetown, Groveland and Haverhill combined have now," and in conclusion remarks that the "Gazette harps on beautiful scenery," and wishes to be informed what that has "got to do with freight," and continuing states that if the Bradford road is adopted "the stock of the Newburyport Railroad and the Newburyport Turnpike Road will forever stand on a par, which being interpreted, means a right smart slice below zero. Give us no road at all rather than such a road." Some Newburyport Railroad shares were sold, at this time, for $25 per share. On September 14, 1850, the Gazette returns the Courier's fire. "The editor of the Lawrence Courier has again mounted his high heeled shoes, and is dealing out his commands where *our* railroad shall go, as though he were the real "money king" of railroads . . . we have hitherto dealt with him in sober argument", and have "within a week or two published facts enough to blow all his flummery sky high." In conclusion the editor writes if Haverhill gets the road they "will double the amount of cash Lawrence gave the Boston and Maine," and compliments Mr. Cunningham "for his independence" in favoring the Bradford route.

At the annual meeting of the Newburyport Railroad Company, held at the depot in Newburyport on September 21, 1850, it was shown by the treasurer's report that, "of the capital stock about $70,000 has been paid in, and that about $120,000 has been expended, most of which excess has been raised on bonds and mortgage of the road." This meeting decided in favor of the route to Haverhill by the way of Groveland, after many "eloquent speeches," and the examination of detailed "statements." By the Haverhill Gazette of November 28, 1850, it appears that "a meeting of gentlemen interested in its extension to the Boston and Maine was held on Friday last in the depot in Georgetown which promises the most favorable result to the completion of the road, $21,000 of new stock for this purpose has been taken in Newburyport and Newbury and

$7000 in cash or land damage is secured in Groveland, which with a most noble and generous proposition has been acceeded to by most of the land holders, of taking $15,000 of new stock for the purpose of completing the road, and rendering both the stock and bonds available in the market, will if the proposition is accepted to, bring the means applicable to the completion of the road up to $45,000, with what will be taken by contractors for grading and materials, is considered a good basis for putting the road under contract."

The assessments for the extension were at five different times, the first one of 10 per cent, being payable February 20, 1851, the second of 20 per cent, payable March 20, the third of 20 per cent, payable April 21, the fourth at 20 per cent on May 20, and the fifth of 30 per cent on June 20. To the very last the Gazette "strikes hard" for the road, and maintained that it would always pay good dividends, claiming that even before the extension the road paid running expenses, and with the Haverhill connection, dividends could be easily earned. By July 21, 1851, the extension to Bradford was well under way.

On September 1, 1851, the road bed "had been completed from Georgetown to Haverhill bridge," but was not in good running order the entire distance to Bradford. The fifteen miles from the Eastern Railroad station in Newburyport to the Boston and Maine station at Bradford, had cost about $225,000, or "$15,000 a mile with equipment complete." This was believed to have been "lower than the cost of any other road in New England." The money market had been tight, which forced the directors to sacrifice much on "the discount on the sale of the company's bonds," and the land damages had amounted to more than $25,000, "being more than double the amount which men well acquainted with the value of the property along the line, estimated at the commencement of the work." The Gazette in a very strong editorial scores the awarder of damages, and among other instances, cites a decision whereby "two acres of rather thin, sandy land half a mile from any road," cost $1165. In many cases, farmers, seeing a chance to recoup themselves for heavy taxes, carried

their cases before a jury and were awarded several times the value of their land. It was said that the two miles in Bradford caused more trouble than all the rest of the railroad.

September 15, 1851, a train was run "from the bridge to Georgetown," to accomodate the stockholders who attended the annual meeting, it being "the first time the passenger cars have run to Haverhill," according to the Gazette. While the road was opened to Bradford for public travel on September 22, 1851, the trains did not run regularly until the latter part of October, and for the first "five or six months after the opening, it was operated to much disadvantage. A portion of the road bed was at sub-grade; the depot buildings were not completed; and the arrangements which the directors had been able to effect with the long lines of road at the termini were unsatisfactory and unfavorable."

At this time the "running expenses of the road, including salaries of the superintendant and treasurer, fuel, oil, etc., engineer, fireman, conductor, brakeman, switch-men, ticket masters, road master and three men, two repair hands, sawing wood, etc., amounted to $37.59 a day." The total income amounted to $83.05 per day. The "furniture of the road" at this time consisted of "Three Locomotive Engines, Three Passenger Cars, One eight wheel Baggage Car, one four wheel Baggage Car, Four eight wheel House Freight Cars, Two four wheel House Freight Cars, Four eight wheel Platform Cars, Two four wheel Platform Cars, Nine Gravel Cars, Two Hand Cars, and One Iron Car." The capital stock of the Newburyport Company when united with the Georgetown Branch Railroad Company was $300,000, and only $131,000 was paid in, while the total cost of the 14 miles and 3073 feet from Newburyport to Bradford was $255,613.88.

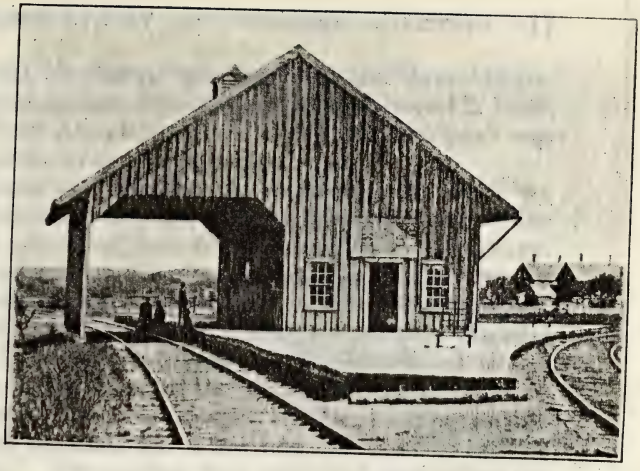
The road was hardly completed before Haverhill began to find fault because all the freight for that town had to be carted across the bridge, for the right to extend the road across the river into Haverhill was not granted till March 16, 1855. This resulted in a great loss of freight traffic for the railroad.

The arrangements that had been made in 1850 with the

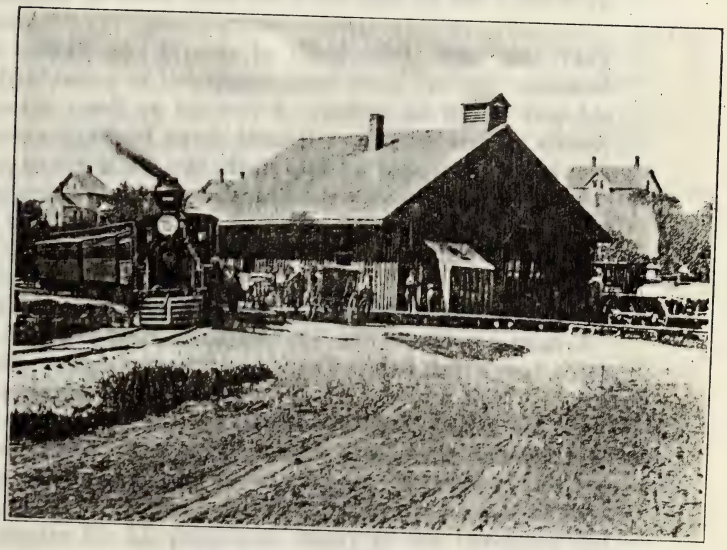
Eastern Railroad, for the use of its road bed and station in Newburyport, were not satisfactory to the Eastern, and the Newburyport Railroad was notified that "on and after November 26, 1853" they would be obliged "to start all their trains from their own depot." At this time an effort was made to obtain permission from the legislature to extend the road to the Merrimac river at Newburyport, hoping to get all the river traffic, and at the same time obtain a very central location for a new station, but the bill was entered too late for legislative action that year, and in addition the Eastern Railroad refused to waive their rights, and in consequence the plan was abandoned for the time, but on March 28, 1854, this extension was granted.

The first station in Newburyport was a cheap structure, and was located outside the settled part of Newburyport, southwest from High street, in rear of the tunnel and was reached by running over the Eastern Railroad for about one mile. In March, 1854, authority was given to cross the Eastern Railroad tracks, and a station was then built near the mall on High street which is now used as the Boston and Maine freight depot. The only station between Newburyport and Georgetown was at "Pearsons' Mills," now known as Byfield. Benjamin S. Rogers was the station agent for many years. The Georgetown station was located nearly where the freight house now stands, and the track was covered the length of the station. After the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad was united with the Newburyport Railroad, the station was moved to the present location. The stations on the "extension to Bradford" have remained practically the same. George P. Carleton was the first agent at Groveland. The first station agent at Georgetown was George Spofford, known on account of his small stature as "Little George the Giant." He was the son of Dr. Amos and Irene Dole Spofford, and brother of Dr. Richard Spofford of Newburyport. The second agent was Albert Carleton, who served seven years, and the third, S. Page Lake of Topsfield.

With the mention of the great damage done by the heavy freshet the spring of 1852, the worst since 1785, the first agitation for a road to run from Groveland, "three



Georgetown Railroad Station
Erected in 1850. From photograph taken about 1865



Georgetown Railroad Station
Erected in 1850. From photograph taken about 1865

miles to West Newbury," was begun in the Haverhill Gazette, but this did not come to anything till June 12, 1869, when the West Amesbury Branch Railroad Company was given the power to construct such a road.

In the Haverhill Gazette of September 10, 1853, we have the following account of a serious accident. "On Wednesday afternoon, as a special train on the Newburyport and Georgetown, was making preparations to return from Groveland with a picnic party from Newburyport, the boiler of the engine burst, killing the fireman, Leander Spofford of Georgetown, formerly of the Merrimack House in this town. At the time of the explosion he was attending to his duties and was blown some 150 yards into an adjoining field, and breathed but a few minutes after assistance reached him." The engine that exploded was called the "Bunker Hill," and was a ten-ton engine, constructed in Philadelphia in 1841, that had been used on the Fitchburg Railroad.

It is told of one farmer in Groveland, who was very much frightened at the trains, that when he had occasion to cross the track on his way to market, he would stop his team some hundred yards from the crossing and go ahead, on foot, to see if all was clear. If he failed to discover a train approaching he would put his ear to the rails to ascertain if a train was in the distance, and failing to detect any sound by the rails, he then would run back to the team and race his horse across the track.

From the common expression that the Bradford Branch of the Newburyport Railroad was not worth "a peanut," the name "peanut train" has been handed down year after year, applying to that branch.

A Georgetown lady relates that from her father's investment of $3800 in the stock of the railroad, he received her free passage to and from Newburyport, where she attended school, and as that answered for dividends, he was offered an old engine for his principal. Many of the investors did not even get a free ride on the railroad for their money. The same lady recalls on returning one night from Newburyport in a snow storm they were stalled all night in a snow drift, and enjoyed it greatly, for Ole Bull, the great

violinist, who was touring the country at this time, had taken the train for Boston to fill an engagement that evening, but instead he gave his concert on the train to the great enjoyment of the imprisoned passengers.

Charles S. Tenney, superintendent, under date of "Georgetown, Sept. 19, 1851," gives the following schedule of trains:—"On and after Monday, September 22, 1851, cars will leave Georgetown for Newburyport at 7 A. M. to connect with the 8 A. M. train to Boston. Leave Newburyport for Bradford at 7.35 a. m. to connect with the 8.30 for Lawrence and Lowell." The fare from Newburyport to Byfield was fifteen cents; to Georgetown, twenty-five cents; to Groveland thirty-three cents; and to Bradford, forty cents. This road, as completed, could pay 4 per cent. said the directors, if the Company had not been obliged to discount their bonds to finish the road. Of the $40,000 issue of bonds, $20,000 had been sold and the balance were placed as collateral.

The first activity for a railroad through Topsfield to Danvers was launched in earnest, on March 16, 1844, when the Georgetown and Danvers Railroad Company was chartered by thirteen Danvers and three Georgetown citizens, to run from "some convenient point in the central part of the village of Georgetown, thence southerly through the villages of Topsfield, Danvers Plains and South Danvers, and thence to Salem to unite with the Eastern Railroad." This enterprise apparently did not extend beyond the initial movement, for we hear no more of it though it was originally promoted to run in connection with the Georgetown Branch Railroad.

On May 7, 1851 the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company was chartered by John Wright and Asa Pingree of Topsfield, and Samuel Little and Henry Poor of Georgetown. Three men and "their associates" were given the power to "construct and maintain a railroad, commencing at some convenient point in Georgetown, thence running through Rowley, Ipswich, Boxford, Topsfield, Wenham, or any of said towns to the village of North Danvers, there to enter upon and unite with the Essex Railroad at some convenient point." The capital stock was to be $130,000,

and the road must be completed by May 7, 1854. From the fact that the incorporaters were given the right to run through Rowley and Ipswich, we have reason to believe that, as is commonly understood, the first intention was to run the road across Hoods Pond in Topsfield. This plan was favored by those who felt sure that the harvesting of ice and its transportation by the cars would prove valuable. The road was to cross the pond from the Boxford and Ipswich side and strike Topsfield at what is now known as Kimball's Point, thence to Bixby's Corner, so called, across Gallop's brook and under Great hill, passing through the village back of the Academy hill, and so along to Danvers. When this route was abandoned, numerous Topsfield citizens who owned land over which the road was to pass, refused to pay for the stock to which they had subscribed. Considerable trouble was occasioned by their action and in order to discover its legality, those who refused to subscribe, paid twenty dollars each for a legal decision which was apparently favorable to them.

The next plan of location was through the village of East Boxford, but as the people here failed to subscribe as freely as those near where the road now passes, the route was changed. Singularly enough, the man who promised to purchase the largest number of shares, if the road went as he wished, failed in the end to purchase any and, adding insult to injury, received an enormous damage for his land. So much for promises. The total land damages of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad amounted to $15,473.42.

At the annual meeting of the Newburyport Railroad Company held in September, 1851, at the City Hall in Newburyport, the "Act passed by the last Legislature, entitled an Act concerning the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad," was accepted and the directors "were requested to make such arrangements with the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad . . . as they shall deem proper," and further they were "requested to petition the next Legislature for authority to unite the Newburyport Railroad Company with the Danvers and Georgetown, . . . "provided the Danvers and Georgetown join in such application."

During the month of September, 1851, "several capitalists of Salem and Danvers made advances to the Danvers and Georgetown to procure an alteration in their charter to build from Georgetown to South Reading," and this was favored as it would give Salem the "third line of railway from that city to Boston." This suggestion was not adopted by the directors of the Danvers and Georgetown, which had been organized in September with William D. Northend of Salem, as president, and William L. Weston of Danvers, as treasurer and clerk, but it was the beginning of the movement for the Danvers Railroad Company which was incorporated the next year.

Various citizens of Georgetown, not satisfied with their share, as individuals, in the construction of the Newburyport Railroad, in their zeal and anxiety for more railroad connections, called a special town meeting for August 4, 1851, "to see if the town will vote to authorize their treasurer to subscribe for fifteen shares in the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad and appropriate the stock now owned by them in the Manufacturer's Bank in payment, the dividends of railroad stock to be appropriated for the support of Schools." It proved to be a very lively meeting, but as the plan was favored by the more wealthy and influential citizens, the motion was carried and the subscription accomplished. This stock was carried as an asset of the town till 1862, when it disappears from the town accounts, without comment. It was not uncommon for towns to subscribe to stock, for it was argued that railroads were but modern highways, and that no one ever doubted the rights of towns to construct highways, and "that what is to be for the benefit of the whole community, should be paid for by the whole community." Encouraged by the action of the town, many private citizens subscribed to the stock, and in most cases lost their entire savings. Numbers of people in the towns along the line took one or two shares, many with the idea that they would lose their investment, but satisfied to spend that amount for the benefit to come from the railroad. Many farmers believed that the coming of the road would put an end to their market at Salem, believing that they would

sell nothing, and that in addition other towns would compete successfully for the home market. In a poem by Stephen Osgood of Georgetown, supposed to be the interpretation of a dream, wherein he saw many different individuals pass before him, occur the following lines:

> "Then came with slow and lingering walk
> Signers for the Georgetown Railroad Stock.
> With careworn looks and hair turned gray,
> (They'd hoped in vain, the road would pay)
> And sung as they passed,—with voices faint,
> "Bad is the Road" and "Old Complaint."

On May 21, 1851 the West Newbury Railroad Company was chartered to run in connectiou with the Danvers and Georgetown "from the passenger depot . . . in Georgetown, to Rocks Bridge, in West Newbury, a distance of 5 1-2 miles. The capital stock was to be $50,000. The Haverhill Gazette describes this as a "very bold project," and continuing says that the "ground is uneven and rocky, and would cost high to grade," and that the elevation of West Newbury above the Merrimack, nearly forbids the approach of a railroad so as to cross the river from that quarter, with the object in "view to accommodate West Amesbury." On May 21, 1851, the West Newbury and the Danvers and Georgetown were given the right to unite. The West Newbury road was never financed, dying a natural death like many another enterprise founded on similar dreams.

Under date of August 4, 1852, the Danvers and Georgtown Railroad Company, informs the stockholders that "450 shares of the capital stock," has been "subscribed for." In September, 1852, a meeting was held in Danvers, says the Haverhill Gazette, where $15,000 was subscribed for the stock. It continues :—"the ancient intercourse with Salem will again be placed on the most convenient footing. The writer well remembers when long processions of country sleighs, gave employment to half-a-dozen taverns between Haverhill and Salem, over roads now overgrown with grass. Four hours were then consumed in the journey at the old five mile jog of farm horses."

The Danvers Railroad Company was chartered March 15, 1852 and was authorized to unite with the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad Company, under the name of the latter. In the following June the stockholders of the Danvers and Georgetown authorized their directors to "lease their railroad to the Boston and Maine or Eastern Railroads." All the stock required by the charter was subscribed for at this time, but evidently neither the Boston and Maine nor the Eastern cared to assume the rest of the stock, for neither would entertain the proposition to lease the road.

In the Salem Gazette, of April 7, 1853, under the heading Topsfield, April 6, we read that, "the ground is being broken today for the making of the Georgetown and Danvers railroad. There will be a new location of railroad from Danvers to South Reading, which makes a new route from Newburyport to Boston *through Topsfield.* Will not this be 'first rate' for Topsfield." At about the same date, "the contractors commenced work at North Danvers." The first work in Topsfield on the grading was begun in what is known as "Colrain," and Benjamin P. Adams, postmaster for many years, threw out the first gravel. The shovel he used is still in existence. He also filled the same role at North Danvers, so called, when the first work was done on the plains below the Putnamville station, the gravel for filling being taken from the pits on the neighboring hillside.

On May 27, 1853, an agreement was entered into by the Newburyport Railroad, the Danvers and Georgetown, and the Danvers Railroad, wherein it was agreed "to run their cars" over each others' tracks, and no others, except the tracks of the Boston and Maine, and it also was agreed to make the fare from Haverhill to Boston, not less than by the Boston and Maine. They were to divide all fares "pro rata," and pay extra for cars exceeding three passenger and one freight car per day. This agreement was to continue in force 100 years, and was to be void if an agreement between the Danvers and Boston and Maine Railroads was not executed in 60 days. This agreement was executed and signed by Charles J. Brockway, the first

president, and M. E. Hale, the second treasurer of the Newburyport Railroad; William D. Northend, the first president, and William N. Cleaveland, the second treasurer of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad; and William D. Northend, the first resident, and George F. Choate, the first treasurer of the Danvers Railroad. In consequence of this agreement, the power given on May 2, 1853, was lost whereby the three roads might unite under the name of the Newburyport Railroad Company and receive subscriptions to their capital stock from the Boston and Maine, the Eastern, and the Essex Railroads to "an amount not exceeding $40,000."

On January 28, 1854, the time "for construction" of the Danvers and Georgetown was extended to September 1, 1854. By May 27, 1854, eight hundred tons of rails had arrived and the "process of putting them down" was "about to commence." Andrew Gould of Topsfield obtained the contract to supply the sleepers and to construct the fences for the railroad. The sleepers were of chestnut and cost 25 cents each. They came from a grove which he purchased in Derry, N. H.; some of the other material came from his land in Boxford. He received his pay in bonds. The Irishmen employed in the making of the roadbed were brought into Topsfield in 50 tipcarts, just at the edge of evening, and in the middle of the long line, perched high above the others on a great pile of bedding, rode one lone Irish woman. They used the southerly store, in what is now Bailey's Block, for mess room, and occupied the present Grange banquet hall, on the floor above, for their sleeping quarters. Later they occupied shanties located above the railroad bridge which crosses West street. It was reported that one of their number was murdered here, but no proof remains. The superintendent of the gang, one Mead, encountered an obstacle when he proceeded to break ground through the land of a Topsfield man who had objected very strenuously to the advent of the railroad. This man, who tipped the scales at over two hundred pounds, as a last resort, had calmly seated himself directly on the centre line of the proposed road, immediately in front of the approaching

builders, apparently for the purpose of making Mead and his gang cease work. But Mead was equal to the occasion and though the task appeared difficult, he succeeded without much apparent effort in picking up the obstruction as he would a baby and placing it gently down on the other side of the fence. The work was then resumed.

The Salem Gazette informs us that on August 12, 1854, "the cars ran for the first time into the village of Topsfield from Georgetown." In the Gazette of August 19, 1854, under the Topsfield items, we learn that "our Georgetown, Topsfield and Danvers Railroad is just drawing to a completion. The whistle of the engine has for the first time within a week disturbed the quiet slumbers of our village. The rails are now laid as far as the Ipswich River, south of the village one mile. In one week more the rails will be laid as far as North Danvers, and by the first day of September the cars will commence running over the road, which will be a day of much interest to the towns through which it passes. This road is said to be one of the best graded roads in the country, and from present appearance, promises all that its friends ever claimed for it." On August 31, 1854, says the Gazette, "the passenger cars on the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad ran for the first time between Topsfield and Georgetown, to carry a party of one hundred and fifty to a picnic in Little's Grove."

On September 1st the railroad was opened, in connection with the Danvers Railroad, through to South Reading, and the Topsfield correspondent of the Salem Gazette gives us a lengthy account of the opening. He writes: "I took the cars at Topsfield early in the afternoon . . . large numbers had assembled to witness our departure and to congratulate us on the prospect of the pleasure of the excursion. We glided finely along and the first place of particular note that we came to was what was formerly called Blind Hole, but latterly named Putnamville. There we passed through a formidable ledge, of the hardest granite . . . after a little delay at Porter's plain, we passed on to North Danvers, where several hundred had assembled to witness our arrival, which was greeted with

cheers. From North Danvers we started for Tapleyville, and on our arrival at the depot we were hailed with much joy. One demonstration was by a noble fire company, out on duty, waiting our arrival. From hence we passed on to that famous place, which has been visited by thousands the past summer, called "Needham's Hill." Here we had an opportunity to witness what skill, perseverance and industry had accomplished to divide this monster of a hill and let the *iron horse* pass on without molestation.* The next place of note that we arrived at was that famous place known to the ancients as the Devil's Dishful, but to modern travellers as Brookdale.† A few puffs of the iron horse brought us to Lynnfield depot. At this place we found flags flying, and numbers had assembled to greet us onward. From this place we moved smoothly on and shortly arrived at South Reading, where we stopped for the space of an hour to *wood up* . . . We then started homeward bound, and arrived safely at our place of destination."

The Directors, with a few friends, after returning to Georgetown, made the opening an "occasion of a very pleasant dinner party." The road was not opened for public travel, however, until October 23, 1854.

On March 3, 1854, the Chebacco Branch Railroad Company, Number Two, was chartered, to run "from Essex to the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad, in Wenham, or Danvers, with authority to cross the Eastern Railroad, and enter on said Eastern Railroad and said Danvers and Georgetown Railroad." This road was never constructed, dying without a struggle.

The Salem Gazette, under date of October 31, 1854, describes the route "over the new railroads" from Salem to Boston. The Salem and Lowell, which was opened Aug. 1, 1850, was used to West Danvers, "then the Salem train is attached to another from Newburyport, and in this conveyed to South Reading, then to Boston." The station mentioned by the correspondent from Topsfield as

*From another source we learn that on this excursion the travellers were obliged to get out and push the train over the grade.

†Now known as West Peabody.

"Brookdale," is described as "the settlement about the woolen factory, and part of West Danvers commonly called the 'Dishful' we believe."

Warren Nichols, for many years employed on the railroad, ran the first train out of Topsfield that went to Little's Grove in Georgetown. The freight engine which was employed in the construction of the road was called "Baldpate," and was run by Ellis Dorman. It was said that this engine could go regardless of the rails, making as good time in a rocky pasture as along the laid rails. And it was well that it was so, for the first line of track was "fearfully and wonderfully put together."

In February, 1855, the business of the Danvers and Georgetown "was suspended for a large portion of the month . . . on account of the destruction of the river bridge at Topsfield by a freshet." Benjamin Poole of that town, and shortly afterwards to be the second president of the railroad, was moving into town during that month and was obliged to cart his furniture from Putnamville over the road to Topsfield. On February 9, 1855, this road was given the power to form a corporate union with the Newburyport Railroad Company, under that name which was done, and thereafter the entire road to Danvers was known as the Newburyport Railroad.

It is to the Boston and Maine Railroad that credit must be given for the completion of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad, as is shown in a report of an investigating committee of the Boston and Maine, presented to the stockholders on September 29, 1855. "In 1854 no road in the country was in better condition than the Boston and Maine . . . The condition of the money market had become very unfavorable for unfinished railroads, and a disposition of distrust towards them daily increasing, the directors of this road conceived it to be their policy to sustain and push through to completion the Danvers and the Danvers and Georgetown which was to connect it with the Newburyport Railroad. The Danvers and Georgetown had imported their iron, but were unable to pay for it, and authority was given the president to advance the money to pay the cost and duties. In pursuance of this, he paid for

the iron as it arrived, a sum of $70,000, retaining the iron as security for the advance. This loan was intended to be temporary but as the Danvers and Georgetown could not proceed without the iron to lay down, after some intermediate negotiations and action not necessary to be recited, this $70,000 finally (August, 1854) was converted into a note of that corporation with indorsers, due twelve months from date. The Danvers road by this time was experiencing the difficulties of the money market and called on this road to make an advance. On November 21 and 23, and December 15, this road advanced $45,060 to the Danvers as prepayment of rent until 1862. These extraordinary advances exhausted the immediately available funds, and for the purposes of a dividend, five days after this last payment, the Treasurer borrowed money on the notes of the corporation as well as discounting some of the Notes Receivable. Thus was inaugurated the policy of borrowing to pay dividends, when earnings were greatly in excess of the legitimate expenditures of the road." The Newburyport Railroad also was loaned $26,400 on notes at this time. The report goes on to tell why the Boston and Maine helped the Danvers and Georgetown, saying that "the committee express their regret that a rivalry in business between the Eastern Railroad and the Boston and Maine should ever have led these corporations into the policy of building or sustaining roads from one line to the other whose legitimate business was inadequate to their support, and which could only become profitable or valuable by diverting traffic from the other great road leading to Boston." It it said that the Boston and Maine and Eastern railroads spent $2,500,000 in fighting each other.

In 1858, there was considerable talk about turning the Danvers and Georgetown over to the bondholders, and they in turn, not seeing any chance to get any money for paying the interest on the bonds, conceived the plan of tearing up the iron and selling it with the other property of the road. Several editorials appeared in the newspapers concerning this proposition. It was finally decided that as the Boston and Maine had breathed life into the road, and as it could pay running expenses, they would keep it

going. An effort also was made at this time to unite the Danvers and Georgetown, which was made a part of the system of the Newburyport Railroad, with the Boston and Maine, but it was not successful. Some of the bonds were taken at this time for seventy-five cents on the dollar, but the Boston and Maine gave only sixty cents on the dollar, in 1860, when it took the lease of the road.

Stephen Osgood, of Georgetown, tells us in one of his poems, supposed to have been the interpretation of a dream, just how the public regarded the Boston and Maine, and we can see how unjust this sentiment was, and realize that today the sentiment against the road is prompted on just as unfair grounds. He relates:

"I then discovered in my dream
An unknown monster moved by steam,
Spitting smoke and fiery streams
And breaking forth in hellish screams.
Cattle and men it inward hurled
And threatened to engulf the world.
My curiosity took wing
On seeing this infernal thing,
To learn its mission and its name,
Where it was bound and whence it came.
Nor did I long remain in doubt
For a demon stuck his nozzle out
And wrote in fiery letters plain,
B. & M.—'Boston and Maine.'
The people yelled with indignation,
'Tis the spirit of that corporation!
'Twas born,' cried out unearthly legions,
'Down deep in the infernal regions
And if not saved by long probation
That place will be its destination!'
In front, and laughing at the sport,
Was one marked Danvers and Newburyport.
The B. & M. with swaggering gait
Moved forward toward the tempting bait,
Opened its jaws to swallow down
The unlucky Danvers and Georgetown,

But found him, although young and slim,
Quite too many guns for him.
The monster tried, but all in vain,
To swallow the little one again.
Said Spool, with one derisive laugh,
'You don't catch this old bird with chaff,
You will soon discover, with dismay
That swallowing railroads will not pay.'"

A Topsfield man, although having received large damages for the land taken by the road, was much opposed to it, and attributed all calamities, even the weather, to the corporation. It is said that if he found any of his hens dead, either inside the coop or out, he would present the dead bird to the attorney with a claim for damages against the railroad. He termed the locomotives "smoke-carts," and as he reserved a right of way across the railroad from one of his pastures to the other, he made it a point to cross in front of the train so that it would be obliged to stop for him to pass.

In 1845, the first agitation for a road from Danvers to the line of the Boston and Maine at South Reading, now Wakefield, was started. On November 7th of that year, a large meeting was held in Lynnfield for the purpose of arousing enthusiasm, and at other dates meetings were held in the different towns along the proposed line. This early movement was not fruitful. On March 15, 1852, William D. Northend, George J. Tenney, Asa Pingree, Joseph S. Black and Gilbert Tapley, were incorporated as the "Danvers Railroad Company," with the power to construct a railroad from "some convenient point on the line of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad in North Danvers, thence running through the towns of Reading, Lynnfield, and South Reading, or either of said towns, to unite with the Boston and Maine Railroad, or the South Reading Branch Railroad, at some convenient point in said South Reading," with a right to cross the Essex and Salem and Lowell Railroads. The capital stock was to be $100,000. Under the section on the Danvers and Georgetown, the relation of the Boston and Maine toward

the Danvers Railroad is also treated. The ground was first broken on August 8, 1853 and in the Salem Gazette of the following day we read that, "a large number of persons assembled at Locust Dale, West Danvers, yesterday afternoon for the purpose of joining in the ceremony of 'breaking ground' for the commencement of the Danvers Railroad. A circle being formed, the President of the Company, W. D. Northend, Esq., invited Hon. C. W. Upham to open the services, by throwing the first shovel full. To this request, Mr. Upham acceeded, with a brief and humorous remark or two. . . . Mr. Northend then took hold, and other gentlemen by his invitation, and the carts were soon filled with their first load, which was taken from land of Mr. Elijah Pope. Meanwhile the ladies of the neighborhood had accomplished the task which they had undertaken at a few hours' notice, of preparing a collation, which they had set out in a pleasant locust grove on the farm of Mr. Elias Needham, and which, from its abundance, excellent quality, and neat arrangement, did great credit to their hospitality, good housewifery, and good taste. The invitation being announced by the president, the company repaired to the tables, where they found a bountiful supply, and were waited upon by their fair and hospitable entertainers."

The contract for grading and masonry was let to Murphy and Quealy.

The Danvers and the Danvers and Georgetown railroads were given the power, on April 30, 1852, to form a corporate union under the name of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad, and also were given power to enter on the Newburyport Railroad at Georgetown, and in addition could lease their roads to the Eastern or to the Boston and Maine. The charter of the Danvers Railroad was petitioned for by the directors of the Danvers and Georgetown for the purpose of extending their railroad to the line of the Boston and Maine at South Reading. On account of negotiations between the Danvers and Georgetown and the Eastern Railroad companies, the subscription books of the Danvers Railroad were not opened the first year. In 1852 so small a part of the stock re-

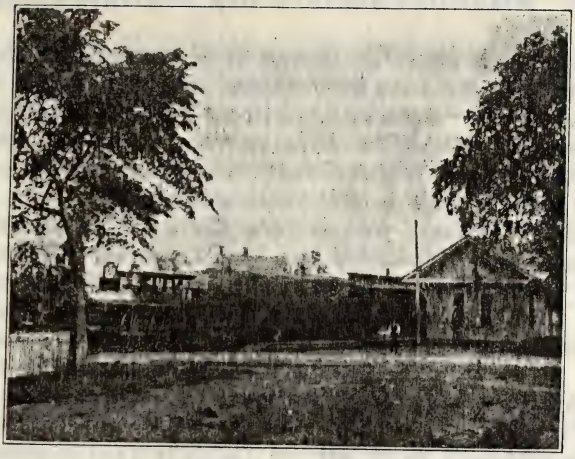
quired by the charter was subscribed for that the directors redoubled their already strenuous efforts to secure additional subscriptions, and after a time became satisfied that it would be impossible to obtain the required amount on the line of the railroad, and therefore, in January, 1853, they applied to the directors of the Boston and Maine for assistance, but without success. In February, following, a bill was put before the Legislature to allow a consolidation with the Danvers and Georgetown and the Newburyport Railroads, and requesting authority for the company to receive subscriptions to their capital stock from the Boston and Maine to an amount not exceeding $40,000. The Eastern Railroad made a strong effort in both branches of the Legislature to prevent the passage of this bill, but finally offered to withdraw opposition on condition that the company should have the same authority to receive subscriptions from the Eastern and the Essex Railroad Companies as from the Boston and Maine. The bill, as amended, was passed to be enacted May 2, 1853. Application was then made to the Boston and Maine to avail itself of the authority conferred by the act. This it declined to do, but at last offered to take a lease of the Danvers Railroad, provided an agreement could be made with the Danvers and Georgetown and Newburyport for the joint operation of their respective railroads. This arrangement was made, and on May 30th a lease of the Danvers to the Boston and Maine was executed for one hundred years.

The Boston and Maine agreed to pay at the rate of 5 per cent per annum on the cost of the railroad, payable semi-annually, the cost of the road being limited to $150,000, and also agreed to render to the Danvers Railroad Company a report of all the receipts and expenditures one month after the make up of their annual accounts, and if it appeared that they had received more than the cost of maintenance, they were to return the excess to the Danvers Railroad Company. The Danvers Railroad, on its part, was to execute $125,000 of notes or obligations, with interest coupons; these and the coupons were to be endorsed by the Boston and Maine, and paid by them at

maturity. The cost of the Danvers was limited to $150,000, although it was capitalized for only $100,000, but with the ending of the year 1854, shortly after the cars had commenced running for public travel, the nine miles and 1048 feet had cost $118,031.36, which did not include many damage suits against the road, nor were the stations completed. The next year the cost was brought up to $195,414.17, and in 1860 it was $236,277.36, and of the capital stock only $65,580 had been paid in; the rest was charged to a funded and a floating debt. While the Danvers and the Danvers and Georgetown were opened for inspection on August 31st and September 2d, 1854, they were not opened for public travel till October 23d, 1854.

The Boston Transcript of October 24, 1854, says: "It was a great day for the hard working citizens of several towns of Essex County on Monday, October 23d, when a new route between Boston and Newburyport was opened to the public. This road connects with the Boston and Maine at South Reading [Wakefield], and passes through Lynnfield, Tapleyville, North Danvers, Topsfield, Boxford, Georgetown, Newbury and Newburyport. We understand that a large number of persons from Georgetown, Boxford and Topsfield, who had never travelled with a steam horse, ventured the experiment of jumping on and trying him. Several hardy, healthy looking strangers were seen gazing at the new goods in the shop windows in this city after the trains arrived. The 'old folks' and the young folks got home without any damage to 'life or limb,' and were highly delighted with the new conveyance."

The schedule of trains on and after Oct. 23d was as follows: Trains leave Newburyport for Boston at 7.45 and 11 A. M., 1.45 and 5 P. M., arriving at Boston at 9.19 and 12.40 A. M. and 3.23 and 6.40 P. M. Trains leave Boston for Newburyport at 8.05 A. M. and 12 M.; 3 and 5.30 P. M., arriving at Newburyport at 9.43 A. M., 1.33, 4.33 and 7.04 P. M. This made the trip from Boston to Newburyport last about one hour and thirty-four minutes, and it was accomplished by wood-burning engines. In 1858 a saving of 36 per cent., or $1500 a year, was accomplished by the substitution of coal for wood. The fare



Topsfield Railroad Station
Erected in 1854. From photograph taken about 1872

Eastern Railroad Station at Newburyport
From a wood engraving made in 1854

was nearly the same as it is to-day. Though many said the road could never pay, others were more hopeful, and said in its favor that the road passed through "the village of Byfield, that has much improved within the last half dozen years, and Georgetown, that is full of Yankee shoemakers, . . . and Boxford, where lots of ship lumber is shipped from, and Topsfield, that is now reached by the steam horse for the first time," and continuing, said that "the new road is in prime order, and is furnished with a lot of first-class cars and obliging conductors."

Engines were changed at North Danvers, but the cars ran through from Newburyport to Boston.

After the Danvers and Georgetown became a part of the Newburyport Railroad Company, that company's credit seems to have vanished, for the third President of the road, George Cogswell of Bradford, together with George J. Tenney and Samuel Little of the directors, were obliged to become personally responsible for all bills. Though the Newburyport Railroad Co. gave a note July 14, 1855, for 24 months, to the Boston Locomotive Works, the release from that company was to Cogswell, Tenney and Little for all "right and title in two locomotives called the Newburyport and the Yankee with their tenders." Those engines cost $6000, and when it is understood that a good engine today costs from $12,000 to $15,000, the directors of the Newburyport Railroad cannot be considered extravagant. All the coal shipped to the railroad, was consigned to Tenney, Little and Cogswell, it costing all the way from $3.00 to $5.50 per ton. These three also owned the freight cars, for George Cogswell received from the railroad $33.33, for the use of 1-3 of five freight cars from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15, 1856. The shippers along the line of the road were given annual passes in consideration of their freight business. One man, for a loan of $400, received a pass for one year for himself and family.

The Newburyport Railroad, through its president, George Cogswell, under date of Dec. 17, 1855, reported as follows regarding the lease agreement of 1853: "some two years since the Boston and Maine Railroad con-

tracted through the Danvers Railroad Company, to give to the trains of the Newburyport Railroad some important privileges over their railroad for the business to and from Boston, which contract was for the term of one hundred years; and made at the solicitation of the Boston and Maine. Your Directors have already had ground for complaint. . . . On the fourteenth day of July, 1855, the Boston and Maine Railroad and the Eastern Railroad Company made an indenture, each with the other, by the terms of which the through business between Boston and the different stations upon the line of the Newburport Railroad is parceled out and divided between them."

This agreement, taken as a whole, meant that anything above the actual expense, could not come back to the Newburyport or the Danvers Railroads, and that all business from Haverhill to Boston was to be considered as Boston and Maine business, and all from Newburyport to Boston as the Eastern business. The Boston and Maine, in their agreement, had promised the Newburyport Railroad, that their trains should be run express to Boston from South Reading. This they did not do, and the Legislature, at last, passed an act compelling them, which act was not repealed for several years. The Danvers also made trouble for the Boston and Maine, as they had refused to pay for the increase of expense over the sum set for the outside cost of the road. They also taxed them with the fact that they were not consulted regarding the agreement with the Eastern and that they were not paying any attention whatever to the time advertised for the starting of the Newburyport trains from Boston. An appeal was made to the legislature to put the matter into the hands of the County Commissioners of Essex County. This was strongly fought by the Boston and Maine and was of considerable importance in the legislative session of that year. There is an abundance of material in relation to these controversies. During the controversy, however, the Boston and Maine acknowledged that their only reason for helping this "middle road" was "as a means of offence and defence, against the Eastern, if occasion should require its use." On May 30, 1857, an act was passed in favor of

the Danvers Railroad, but it was repealed March 10, 1860, as a lease of both the Newburyport and the Danvers was made stronger for the Boston and Maine at this time.

The Eastern Railroad, during the few months prior to the lease of 1860, had cut the prices on freight just one-half, making it impossible for the Newburyport to get any business from the city of Newburyport. The latter railroad therefore was limited to Haverhill for its principal freight receipts from which city it was carrying about 6,000 cases of shoes per month. On November 3, 1859, at a meeting held in Georgetown, the directors of the Newburyport Railroad Company were "unanimously" authorized "to lease the road" and on February 21, 1860, the road was leased to the Boston and Maine for one hundred years. The directors of the Newburyport Railroad, not exceeding five in number, "were to be allowed at all times, to pass free over said railroad," and the Boston and Maine agreed "to advance and pay the sum of $225,000," which was payable on bonds due at future dates. Some of the bondholders had obtained these bonds as low as 10 per cent., and by this lease the Boston and Maine stood back of all the bonds, which amounted to about $400,000, and a third of which were held by the Boston and Maine. The stock at this time sold for about one dollar a share. The total cost of the Newburyport Railroad, 14 miles and 3073 feet in length, and the Danvers and Georgetown, 12 miles and 2095 feet in length, which composed the Newburyport Railroad Company, amounted to $597,386.33, as is shown in the report for 1860. 1902748

From October 1, 1854, till November 30, 1855, the receipts of the Newburyport Railroad were $39,030.97 from passengers, express business, etc., and $11,844.91 from freight, or a total amount of $50,875.91. The expense of operating had been: For wages, salaries, repairs on road and incidentals, $17,582.03; for fuel, $13,368.94; oil, $819.40; repairs of locomotives and cars, $3,164.67; and for taxes and insurance, $157.96; or a total expense of $35,093, leaving net earnings of $15,782.91. The interest on the funded and floating debt amounted to $15,369.43, and the net balance therefore was $413.48.

The cost of the road at this time was as follows:

	Dr.		
Engineering,	$ 13,154.82		
Land, land damages and fences,	65,286.41		
Graduation and masonry,	197,456.30		
Superstructure and iron,	175,427.68		
Station buildings, fixtures,	19,723.62		
Locomotives,	30,872.46		
Passenger and baggage cars,	10,850.00		
Merchandise cars,	15,977.01		
Interest and other expenses of construction,	58,505.76		
Newburyport machine shop,	5,369.63	$592,623.69	
Notes receivable,	$14,020.61		
Cash,	17.93		
Balance, sundry amounts,	6,244.12		
		20,282.66	
			$612,906.35
	Cr.		
Stock,	$218,950.02		
Mortgage bonds,	137,200.00		
Notes payable,	220,677.16		
Income,	6,404.61		
Balance of sundry accts.,	29,674.56		
			$612,906.35

On Oct. 11, 1855, the whole amount of the liabilities of the directors of the Newburyport Railroad Company for notes and debts of said company, unsecured, was as follows: George J. Tenney, $66,111.95; Samuel Little, $21,856.63; Samuel Little, G. J. Tenney and Thomas Perley, $11,970; Thomas Perley, $3,870; and J. S. Black, $2,786.63; total, $106,595.21.

The salaries and wages of the road were as follows:

Train Men.

	Per month.
2 Passenger conductors,	$50.00
1 Freight conductor,	35.00
3 Engineers,	60.00
3 Firemen,	30.00
1 Baggage master,	35.00
1 Baggage master,	26.00
1 Brakeman, passenger train,	30.00
1 Brakeman, freight train,	30.00

Newburyport Station.

1 Freight clerk and ticket seller,	$50.00
1 Station agent,	40.00
1 Switchman and baggage-master,	35.00
1 Watchman,	26.00
2 Wood sawers,	26.00
1 Signal man, Eastern Railroad crossing,	10.00

Byfield Station.

1 Station agent,	$16.67

Georgetown Station.

1 Station agent,	$39.00
1 Switchman,	35.00

Groveland Station.

1 Station agent,	$27.00

Haverhill Bridge Station.

1 Station agent,	$39.00

Bradford Junction Station.

1 Ticket seller—our proportion,	$5.00
1 Switchman and wood-sawer,	30.00

Boxford Station.

1 Station agent,	$8.67

Topsfield Station.

1 Station agent,	$26.67

North Danvers Station.

1 Station agent—our proportion,	$8.67
1 Flagman and wood-sawer,	26.00

Repairs of Engines and Cars.

1 Machinist,	$45.50
1 "	39.00
1 Carpenter,	45.50
1 Blacksmith,	34.66
1 "	29.25

Repairs of Track.

13 men, average per month.	$28.50.

Officers.

George Cogswell, President,	$1,200.00	per year.
A. Kimball, Jr., Superintendent,	1,500.00	"
M. E. Hale, Treasurer and Clerk,	1,000.00	"
A. W. Greenleaf, Ass't in Treasurer's office (Ticket Dept.),	50.00	"

For the fourteen months ending October 31, 1855, the total number of passengers carried on the road with regular tickets was 97,760; on season tickets, 12,270; a total of 110,036. The number of miles travelled by regular ticket passengers was 1,018,524; estimated number of miles by season ticket and miscellaneous passengers, 127,828; total miles, 1,146,352. The number of miles run by passenger trains was 63,584; by freight trains 12,480; total 76,064.

The Danvers and the Danvers and Georgetown Railroads both began to run trains before their stations were finished. The Danvers, according to the lease made with the Boston and Maine, was to have a station house at North Danvers, Tapleyville, the junction of the Danvers and the Salem and Lowell, Lynnfield Centre, and South Reading. The present Danvers Junction station was built in 1887; the Collins Street in 1895; and the Lowell Street in 1894.

When the Danvers and Georgetown was first operated, there was some opposition to stopping the trains at South Georgetown, as it was so near the Georgetown station. John A. Lovering of South Georgetown accordingly placed a building on his own land convenient to the track and this was used as a station for several years, though a flag station. For a short time this stop was discontinued, and another used about one-eighth of a mile lower down the track. The present South Georgetown station was built in 1893.

The present Boxford station is the original building that was erected in 1853. It differs from other stations on the line in that it was built to accomodate the family of the agent. The first agent was S. Page Lake of Topsfield who was successively followed by John Hale, jr., Samuel McKenzie, William J. Badger, Charles W. Gardner and Albert

G. Hurlburt. At the beginning of the Civil War several regiments were quartered on the old Boxford training ground near the railroad and a side track and small station were built for their accomodation.

The Topsfield station was formerly on Main street. The new station on Park street was built in 1897. Topsfield used to be the watering place for the Danvers and Georgetown engines, the water supply being taken from Price's hill, so called. Fred Merriam, the first station master, occupied that position for many years. In his spare moments he used to make cigars in the station, and sold them about the town.

John W. Pillsbury and —— Batchelder were two of the early conductors, and Joe Hoyt was an early brakeman. William Smith, engineer, and James Carey, fireman, operated one of the early engines.

On September 7, 1905, the Newburyport Railroad Company, voted to pay three dollars a share for all outstanding stock, and on October 11, 1905 the Danvers Railroad Company took the same action. The president, treasurer and directors of these companies at that time were the officers of the Boston and Maine Railroad. Most of the stock was purchased, but few of the certificates were found to be in existence. On September 28, 1906, the Boston and Maine Railroad was authorized to issue $306,000, 20 year, 4 per cent. bonds to acquire title to the Newburyport Railroad, and also to issue $152,000, 4 per cent. 20 year bonds to acquire title to the Danvers Railroad. These roads accordingly passed out of existence forever.

THE RESTORATION OF ENSIGN JOHN GOULD'S COMMISSION IN 1679.

To the Honoured & Worp[l] the Council of the Colony of the Massachusetts, the humble Request of the welaffected Inhabitants of Topsfield.

Sheweth: That Whereas sometime since you were pleased to take away the commission ffrom & to Disinfranchize our cheif officar, Ensign John Gold there beeing then some vncomfortable misvnderstandings amongst some of us, all w[ch] through Gods goodness being since removed & much peace & love (we hope) now fixed amongst us, as also o[r] Ensign generally received by the Military Company & also Joyned to the church here & much more w[ch] we could say in the case as argumentative.

We Doe most earnestly Begg that yo[r] Hono[rs] would be pleas[d] To restore him to his freedom againe & to his former Comission or an higher, in which doeing you will highly engage vs to him & one an other & most of all to yo[r] hono[r]ed selves & we shall ever pray that God would confirme & blesse yo[r] authority ouer us, who are allready & shall Desire to approue o[r]selves yo[r]s in all fidelity, Loyall Servants vnder his majesty.

Sarg[t] John Pabody	John Comins
Sarg[t] Isack Comins	John How
Sarg[t] Ephrim Dorman	Jacob Town

Topsfield: March 1[st] 78-79.

March 26, 1679. In Answer to the petition of the Inhabitants of Topsfield the Council Judgeth it meete to grant their request Restoring Ensigne Gold to his former freedome as also to his Ensignes place. By y[e] Council.

Edw[d] Rawson, Secrety

Mass. Archives, Vol. 69, leaf 221.

THE

EARLY RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF

TOPSFIELD, MASS.

(*Continued from Vol. XI, page* 172.)

John Averell and John Curtis are chosen Constables for ye year Insuing.
Voted

Lieu^t Tobijah Perkins, Deac Samuel Howlett, Thomas Howlett, Joseph Town and Samuel Stanley are chosen Select Men for ye year Insuing.
Voted

Phillip Knight: Joseph Borman and Ephraim Willds are chosen surveyors of high-wayes for the year Insuing Voted

Clerke Elisha Perkins and Thomas Town are Chosen fence viewers for the year Insuing
Voted

Sar. John Hovey: John Courtis and Thomas Dorman are Chosen Tithingmen for the year Insuing.
Voted

Corp^ll Jacob Town is Chosen to serve on the Grand Jury and Timothy Perkins the 2d is Chosen to serve on the Jury of Trials at next Ipswhich Court.
Voted

The Town Officers above named being Summoned to appear: appeared before the Select-Men Instantly after the meeting was dissolved; at Capt Hows House on ye Same Day they were chosen: and were all Sworne to the faithfull discharge of their respective Officies by the Select Men

Atteste Samuel Stanley Town Clerke for Topsfield

Boston March 16th 1710

Recd of Mr Zacheus Gould Consta of Topsfield by Mr Tobijah Perkins fforty seven pounds fourteen shillings & five pence in part recd for Mr James Taylor Treasr Pr John Wheelwright.

Copia vera Attests Samuel Stanley Town Clerk for Topsfield

At a Lawfull Meeting of ye Selectmen on ye second Day of April 1711 Said Selectmen agreed and Layd out a highway from the Land of Daniel Waters and Goodman Robinsons to the Town Bridge over the River beginning at two Red oake Trees Standing by sd Waterses and Robinsons Land along by ye Northwest End by William Townses Barn: and so on as ye old Cartway now goes by William Townses House; and so along in the Lane to Joseph Towns Senr House; and from thence as the olde Cart way goes to the Causey that goes to the fore sd Town Bridge

Tobijah Perkins
Samuel Howlett
Thomas Howlett

the 9th May 1711

At a Lawfull Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Lieut Tobijah Perkins is chosen Representative for ye year Insuing Voted

Capt John How Mr Isaac Peabody and Deac. Thomas Dorman are Chosen to serve on ye Grand Jury: and Lieut Daniel Redington Sarjt John Curtis and John Hovey Junr are Chosen to serve on ye Jury of trials at the Superiour Court next holden at Ipswhich Voted

the Town Granted liberty to several young men to raise the hinde Seat of the West Gallery in ye Meeting House Voted

At a Lawfull Meeting of the Selectmen May 9th 1711 Samuel Stanley was chosen Schoolmaster for ye year Insuing for ye Town of Topsfield Voted

At a Lawfull meeting of ye freeholders and other Inhabitants Quallified for voting as the Law directs Michael Dwaniel

Junr is Chosen to serve on the Jury of trials at Newbury Court to be holden on ye last TuesDay Insta:
Topsfield Sept 17th 1711 Voted

Boston Sep^{t} 4 1711
Rec^{d} of Mr Thomas Robinson Consta of Topsfield Twenty Six Pounds two shillings & five pence in full received for m^{r} James Taylor Treas^{r}

Pr Theo: Lilli

Boston Jan^{ry} 5th 1711.
Rec^{d} of m^{r} Zacheus Gould Consta: of Topsfield Twenty-five pounds Two shillings and Seven pence in full recev^{d} for my ffather m^{r} James Taylor Treasurer

Pr William Taylor

a true Copy attest Sam^{ll} Stanley T. Clerke for Tops^{d}

Att a Lawfull & General meeting of y^{e} Town of Topsfield on March the fourth 1711 $\frac{0r}{12}$ Leiv^{t} Tobijah Perkins is Chosen Moderator for s^{d} Day Voted

Samuel Stanley is Chosen Town Clerke for y^{e} year Insuing Voted

Nathaniel Borman and Nathaniel Porter are Chosen Constables for the year Insuing Voted

Sarj^{t} Thomas Howlett; Corp^{ll} Joseph Town; Clerke Elisha Perkins; Amos Dorman and John ffrench are Chosen Selectmen for the Year Insuing Voted

William Porter, Jacob Estey; and Ebenezer Averell are Chosen Surveyors of high wayes for the Year Insuing Voted

Benjamin Bixby John Cummings and Zacheus Gould are Chosen Tithing-Men for the Year Insuing Voted

Sarj^{t} John Gould and Sarj^{t} Daniel Clarke Chosen ffence viewers for the Year Insuing Voted

Ens: Timothy Perkins is Chosen Grand jury man for the year Insuing Voted

Nathaniel Averell is Chosen to serve on ye Jury of trials at Ipswhich Court next Voted

Samuel Stanley is Chosen School Master for y^e year Insuing Voted

The Town officers above Named were Sworn to the faithfull discharg of their respective Offices before the Selectmen Instantly after the Town Meeting on y^e above s^d 4th Day of March 1711 $\frac{or}{12}$

as attest Sam^ll Stanley Town Clerke for Topsfield,

At a Lawfull Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on y^e Eleaventh Day of March 1711 or 12 the Town agreed the Selectmen Should appoint Men to Perambulate with Boxford men on a line between Topsfield & Boxford Voted

Att a Lawfull Meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield the 24th Day of Ap^ll 1712 Daniel Clarke & Ephraim Willds was Chosen to Serve on the Grand Jury at the Superiour Court to be holden at Ipswich on may 20th 1712 and Ebenezer Averell; Thomas Dorman and Zacheus Gould are Chosen to serve on the Jury of trials at Said Court Voted

At a Meeting of ye Selectmen Aprill 3^d 1712
for Topsfield Line Mr Benjamin Putnum Mr Samuel Nurse Senr Mr James Phillips Them or ye Maj^r part of them are appointed to meet with Such persons as Topsfield men Shall appoint; at the house of Deac Edward Putnum at Nine of ye Clock in ye fore Noon to Parambulate and renew the Bounds betwee the S^d Towns on april the 17th being Thursday

Salem Ap^ll 3^d 1712; Attest Walter Price Town Cler

Copia vera attest Sam^ll Stanley Town Cler

Wee whose Names are under Writen being Chosen by S^{d} Towns of Salem and Topsfield to perambulate upon the Bounds between ye s^{d} Towns have accordingly owned & Renewed them—viz a Red Oak Tree with a heap of Stones as is Commonly Called Crumwells Rock near Ipswich River; from thence to a heap of Stons betwee three White Oak Trees by a great Assh Swamp then—to heap of Stons near Nickolsis Brook; then to a heap of Stons about a Dry Tree; near the head of Smiths Meadow; then to a Crooked Tree with Stons at it near Wenham—highway Dat^{d} 17th Ap^{ll} 1712

for Topsfield Elisha Perkins Joseph Town John Curtis
for Salem Benjamin Putnam James Phillips

A true Copy attest Sam^{ll} Stanley Town Cler

At a Lawfull Meeting of ye Select Men; Mr Thomas Kimball; Benjamin ffiske and John Kimball; are appointed & Impowered & desiered to meet with ye Select Men of Topsfield; or such as they have appointed; at the Bound Tree near the Causway on Topsfield Shore; on the 14th of May Instant at about Nine of the Clock in ye fore Noon on S^{d} Day; and with them to perambulate on ye Bounds between Wenham and Topsfield.

by order of the Select Men

William Rogerers Town Clerk

Copia vera Attest Sam^{ll} Stanley Town Cler

We whose Names are under Writen being appointed by the Select Men of Wenham to renew Bounds with Topsfield; we have met and owned and renewed them this 14th Day of May 1712.

Thomas Kimball
John Kimball

at a Lawfull meeting of ye Town of Topsfield on the 17th Day of Septr 1712 Ivory Hovey is Chosen to serve on ye Jury of trials at Newbury Court next on ye last tuesday of this Ins^{t} Septr 1712 voted

Copia attest Sam^{ll} Stanley Town Cler

Att a Lawfull meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on the tenth Day of June 1712 The Town agreed to petition to ye General Court for a rehearing of the Case between Topsfield and Boxford
Voted

the Town agreed with and Impowered the Select Men to prefer a petition to ye Hon^d^ General Court; in behalfe of ye Town; for a rehearsing of the Case between Topsfield and Boxford Concerning the Line between the S^d^ Towns Voted

Augt 26th 1712
the Selectmen took the oath of Assessors before me

Samuel Stanley Town Clerke

At a Lawfull Meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on the 23^d^ Day of December 1712, Elisha Perkins, Daniel Clarke and John Hovey Junr are chosen Agents or Atturneys to Joyne with our Representitive in behalfe of ye Town to Manage our Towns petition now in the General Court for a rehearing of y^e^ case between Boxford and Topsfield: and they are fully Impowered to Chuse an Atturney or Att'neys for y^e^ manageing of the case afore^sd^ and Town wlll bear them out in all their Lawfull proceeding therein
voted

At a Lawfull & General meeting of the Town of Topsfield on the third Day of March 17$\frac{12}{13}$ Deac^n^ Samuel Howlett was chosen Moderator for the Day
voted

Samuel Stanley is chosen Town Clerke for the Year Insuing
voted

Deac^n^ Samuel Howlet, Corp^ll^ Jacob Town Ebenezer Averell, Joseph Town Tersus and Samuel Stanley are Chosen Select men for y^e^ year Insuing
voted

Thomas Town and Jacob Eastey are chosen Constables for ye year Insuing
voted

Sarj^{t} Daniel Clarke, John ffrench and Amos Dorman are chosen Surveyers of high Wayes for the year Insuing voted

Benjamin Bixby and Zacheus Gould are chosen ffence Viewers for ye year Insuing voted

Phillip Knight, John Averell and John Hovey Junr are chosen Tithing for the year Insuing voted

Joseph Borman is Chosen to serve on y^{e} Grand Jury for y^{e} year Insuing voted

Jacob Robinson is chosen to serve on y^{e} Jury of Trials at Ipswhich Court next voted

Samuel Stanley is chosen Schoolmaster for the year Insuing voted

Where as Thomas Town and Jacob Eastey were at the General Town Meeting on y^{e} 3^{d} of March 17$\frac{12}{13}$ Chosen Constables for the Town of Topsfield; and Sarj^{t} Daniel Clarke; John ffrench and Amos Dorman were chosen Surveyers of high wayes; and Benjamin Bixby and Zacheus Gould were Chosen ffence viewers and Phillip Knight, Sarj^{t} John Averell and John Hovey Jnn^{r} were chosen TithingMen; They were all Sworn to the faithfull discharge of their Respecting Officers (Excepting Phillip Knight) on ye 3^{d} Day and sixth Day of the moneth above^{sd} by the Selectmen: and Entred by their order

attests Samuel Stanley Town Clerke for Topsfield

Rec^{d} of Mr John Averell Constable of Topsfield: Boston Jana^{y} 23 1712 Six Pounds Eleaven Shillings and three pence in full by me Eph; Will; rec^{d} for my father James Taylor Treas^{r}

p^{r} William Taylor

Copia vera attests Samuel Stanley T Cler, Tops^{d}

At a Lawfull meeting of the Town of Topsfield the Tenth Day of March 171$\frac{2}{3}$ the Town agreed that if any person or persons Shall presume to Cut down any Wood or Timber upon our Town Common and cary out of Town, or make any Coal of Wood taken upon our Town Common and Carry out of Town, or Carry Logs to Saw-Mills to make Plank and carry out of Town or Slit work, or fall Trees for Bark and Carry out of Town shall forfit for Every Tree of one foot over & upward, the Sum of Twenty Shillings; and for Every Tree or Pole under a foot over the Sum of tenn Shillings; and for Every Load of Coal the Sum of Twenty Shillings; and for Every Corde of Bark Twenty Shillings; and for all corde Wood or long wood take upon our s^d^ Town Common and Carryed out of Town; Shall pay after the Rate of Twenty Shillings P^r^ board or Load voted

Corp^ll^ Jacob Town, Sarj Daniel Clarke and John Hovey Junr are Chosen and Impowered to prosecute any that shall transgress in any of the perticulers above mentioned: and the Town will bear them out in all their Lawfull proceedings therein voted

At a Lawfull Meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on the Sixth Day of May 1713 Corp^ll^ Jacob Town is chosen Representitive for the year Insuing voted

Liev^t^ Tobijah Perkins and Lievt Daniel Redington are chosen to serve on ye Jury that is on ye Grand Jury at ye Superiour Court next to be holden at Ipswhich voted

John Curtis Junr Corp^l^ Joseph Town and Sar^t^ Isaac Eastey are chosen to serve on the Jury of trials at the court afore^sd^ voted

The Town granted to Mr Isaac Peabody the Brook from ye Damm upwards as far as the Brook is common voted

Capt Thomas Baker, Deac Thomas Dorman; Sarj^t^ Daniel Clarke, Thomas Dorman and Jesse Dorman Entered their Contrary Decents against the above said vote

Att a Lawfull Meeting of ye Select Men on ye 22^{d} Day of Augt 1712 the Select Men took the Oath of Assessors before me Samuel Stanley Town Clerke

Att a Lawfull Town Meeting on ye Ninth Lay of Septem^{r}, 1713 Amos Dorman was Chosen to Serve on ye Jury of trials at Newbury Court next Insuing ye Date of this meeting

Boston June 24th 1712

Rec^{d} of Mr Nathaniel Borman Const^{ll} of Topsfield Twenty one Pound in part rec^{d} for my father James Taylor, Treasurer

Pr William Taylor

Boston Decem^{r} 8th 1711 Rec^{d} of Mr Nath^{ll} Borman Consta^{ll} of Topsfield Forty Pounds Eight Shillings & Six pence in part recd. for my father James Tayle^{r} Treaser

Boston Sep^{t} 28th 1713 Rec^{d} of Mr Nath^{ll} Borman Consta of Topsfield ten pounds and fourteen shillings & Eight pence in p^{t} rec^{d} for Mr James Taylor Treas Pr William Taylor.

Boston Octo 8th 1713 Rec^{d} of Mr Nath^{ll} Borman Consta of Topsfield Three Pounds & three Shillings in p^{t} rec^{d} P^{r} his Brother, for my father James Taylor, Treas Pr William Taylor,

Boston Octo^{r} 30th 1713 Rec^{d} of Mr Nath^{ll} Borman Consta. of Topsfield Twenty Pounds Nine Shillings & Six pence in p^{t} for my father James Taylor, Treasur, Pr William Taylor

Boston Decem^{r} 29th 1713 Rec^{d} of Mr Nathaniel Borman Consta of Topsfield Two Pounds & Seventeen Shillings & four pence in full by Mr Capen for my father, James Taylor, Treasur, Pr William Taylor

True Copyes as attest Samuel Stanley Town cler

Ipswich ffeb 22: 1713

Rec^{d} of Mr John Averell Constable the Sum of four Pounds Twelve Shillings and four pence for ye County Rate for ye year 1711 for ye Town of Topsfield Rec^{d} P^{r} me John Apleton Treas^{r}

a true Copy as Attests Sam^{ll} Stanley Town Cler

At Topsfield annual Meeting for the year 171¾ Samuel Stanley is Chosen Town Clerke for the year Insuing voted

Corp^ll Joseph Gould and Thomas Cave are chosen Constables for ye year Insuing voted

Clerke Elisha Perkins; John Town; Jacob Peabody and Joseph Knight are Chosen Surveyers of High Wayes for the year Insuing Voted

Sarj^t Isaac Estey and Amos Dorman are Chosen ffence viewers for the year Insuing voted

Sarj^t John Hovey; Job Averell and Sarj^t Daniel Clarke are chosen Tithing men for the year Insuing voted

John ffrench is Chosen Grand Jury for the year: and Mr Simond Bradstreet is Chosen to Serve on the Jury of Trials at Ipswich Court next voted

Samuel Stanley is chosen School Master for the year Insuing voted

the Town have agreed to give Samuel Stanley forty Shillings to keep School voted

Nathaniel Wood; Michael Dwaniel and Nathaniel Borman are chosen Hog constables for the Year Insuiug voted

The Town agreed to allow Mr Capen Six Pounds; to clear the Town of the arears of the ministers Rates Due to Mr Capen from Boxford voted

the Town granted Liberty Sum young men to rais afourth Seat in the front Gallery next to the wall; provided that if any out Townsmen shall Joyn with them; they shall pay to the ministers Rate as our Towns young men do voted

at a lawfull Meeting of the Select men on the Second Day of March: and on the Eight^th Day of March 1713/14 the Town Officers for the Insuing year Were all Sworn to the faithfull discharge of their Respective Offices before the Select-men; accept Job Averell & Nathaniel Borman

Attests Samuel Stanley Town Cler

At a Lawfull meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on ye 14th Day May 1714 Liev^t Tobijah Perkins is Chosen Representitive for ye year Insuing voted

Capt John How; Mr Isaac Peabody and Deac Samuel Howlett are Chosen to serve on ye Grand Jury at ye Superiour Court to be holden next at Ipswich voted

Liev^t Daniel Redington; En^s Timothy Perkins and Corp^ll Ebenezer Averell are chosen to Serve on the Jury of Trials at ye Court aforesaid voted

Corp^ll Jacob Town is chosen fence viewers for ye year Insuing voted

Benjamin Bixby is chosen a Surveyer of Highwayes for ye year Iusuing voted

m^r Isaac Peabody; Sarj^t John Gould and William Town are Chosen & Impowered as Agents or Atturneys for ye Town to Examin and Settle Bounds between the Town Common and mens Proprieties and where it may be made to appear that any man hath Incroched on upon our Town Common by ffencing in or any other way laying clame to any of our Town common to be his own peculer; our aforesaid Agents or Atturneys; are hereby fully Impowered by the Town to use all Legal methods in ye Law for recovering back all such Lands again; If those that have so Incroached Do refuse to agree with our Town Agents or Atturneys aforesaid and the Town will Bear them out in all their Lawfull Proceedings therein voted

Know all Men whom it may concern; that we Isaac Peabody; John Gould and William Town being appointed by the Town of Topsfield to agree with; and settle Bounds between the Town Common and Mens Proprieties; we therefore having Examined the Grants and Deeds belonging to John Hovey Junr we do finde that the Easterly Corner of that which was Lunkinsis Land is Bounded at a Black Oak Tree standing North Eastwardly from said Hoveys Dwelling House beyond a little Pond Hole by the Meadow Side: and we have settled the Bounds of John Hovey Juniore his Land; by the Common; where the Common Joyneth to said Hov-

eys Land; with a straight line between the forementioned Tree and Heap of Stones; which Leiftenant Ephraim Dorman claimeth to be his Bounds upon the south side of Winthrops Hills; the Eastwardly Corner of said Hoveys Land being Bounded in the foresaid straight Line southwestwardly about six Rods from the Path which Ipswich farmers go in as the go to Topsfield Meeting House; where said Hovey Bounds turneth south-westwardly to a Heap of Stons which is between the said Hoveys Land and Dormans Land; as their line cometh up from Pye Brook; for which the said Hovey is Bound in a Bond of five Pounds; Currant Money of New England which he is to Pay to us the Subscribers; for this settlement as witness our Hands to all above writen —this Twenty Eighth Day of May one Thousand Seven Hundred and fourteen.

Isaac Peabody
John Gould
William Towne

This is a true Copy

as attests

Agents or Atturneys

Samuel Stanley Town Cler.

for the Town of Topsfield

The return of the Towns Agents: their return of the agreement next aboue writen was made on the fourteenth Day of December 1714 in a Lawful Town Meeting and was accordingly accepted by the Town

Samuel Stanley Town Cler.

Whereas the Town in the year 1667 past a vote and left it to the descrtion of the Select men to lay out a high way from ye Common Land on the South Side of Mile Brook; over against Goodman Dormans and Sarjent Peabodys to Ensign Howletts Brook—We whose Names are underwritten have layd out a highway from ye Common Land afore^sd over the falls Bridg so called; up the Hill to the lift and fence; of three Rods wide and to holde that Bradth till it comes three or four Rods within Deac. Dormans and Mr Isaac Peabodys fence; and then to be but two Rods wide and the Line between Deac Thomas Dormans and Mr Isaac Peabodys Land is to be in the midle of the said highway one bearing the one half of the way & the other the other half of s^d way and so wee have layd it out till it comes to a crooked Black

or Red oak Tree, standing on Deac: Dormans Side of the way & marked; and Spreading a little before it comes to said crooked Tree, spreading on peabodys side of the way to a Tree marked Standing by ye side of a round Hole or valley and so to another Tree marked but Standing a little forwarder on; on the left side of the way; the way turning to the right Hand by the Side of the round Hole or valley afor^sd and so we have layd out the rest of said highway through the land of Mr Isaac Peabody as the olde highway goes till wee come to the Gate standing in the Line between Mr Isaac Peabody and Lt Tobijah Perkinses Land and to be but two Rods wide except at the two places afore mentioned: which is to give advantag to turn as the Way turns

Samuel Stanley
Dat^d 22 June 1714 Ephraim Willds
John Hove Junr
Zacheus Gould
Selectmen of Topsfield

24 of Agust 1714 the Select men were Sworn to the faithfull discharg of their Office as Assessors for the Town of Topsfield Pr Samuel Stanley Town Cler.

Att a Lawfull Meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on ye fourteenth Day of December 1714 the Town agreed to give Sarj^t Daniel Clarke Forty Shillings for makeing the Pound voted

The Town agreed & made choice of Ebenezer Averell to manage an aprizement in behalf of the Town with Sarj^t Daniel Clarke (of the Pound) if he will not rest Contented with ye Forty Shillings which the Town voted to give him for the said Pound voted

Rec^d of Jacob Eastey Consta^ll of Topsfield Forty Seven Shillings two pence for his part of ye County Rate for said Town; Ipswich april 5 1714.

Boston Decem^r 29th 1713 Rec^d of Mr Jacob Eastey Consta: of Topsfield fifty Eight Pounds Sixteen Shillings in part rec^d for my father James Taylor Treas^r Pr William Taylor

Boston May 14th 1714

Recd of Mr Jacob Eastey Constable of Topsfield Twenty Seven pounds Six Shillings in part recd for my father James Taylor Treas by Mr Elisha Perkins Pr William Taylor

Boston Sept 3d 1714

Recd of Mr Jacob Eastey Constabll of Topsfield Thirty six shillings and Seven pence recd for my Mastr Jere: Allen Treas Pr James Gooch Junr

Boston Octo 13th 1714

Recd of Mr Jacob Eastey Constable of Topsfield Two Pounds four Shillings and five pence in full for my Master Jere Allen Treas Pr James Gooch Junr

Boston January 20th 1714

Recd of Mr Joseph Gould Consta: of Topsfield Forty five Pounds thirteen Shillings and Six pence in part: recd for my mastr Jeremiah Allene Treas by Hands of Mr Tobijah Perkins Pr John Gooch

Boston Sepmr 7th 1714

Recd of Mr John Curtis Consta of Topsfield four Pounds thirteen Shillings in full for My Master Jeremiah Allene Treas by Mr Amos Dorman Pr James Gooch Junr

At a Lawfull and General Meeting of the Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield of ye first Day of March 171$\frac{4}{5}$ Lievt Tobijah Perkins is Chosen Moderator for the Day voted

Samuel Stanley is Chosen Town Clerke for the year Isuing voted

Jacob Peabody and John Burton are Chosen constables for the year Insuing voted

Corpll Joseph Town; Ebenezer Averell; Amos Dorman; Joseph Borman and Deacn Samuel Howlett are Chosen Selectmen for ye year Insuing votd

Clearke Elisha Perkins is Chosen to Serve on ye Jury grand at Ipswich Court next votd

and Sargt Daniel Clarke is Chosen to Serue on the Jury of trials at said Court votd

And Jacob Robinson; Jesse Dorman; Ebenezer Nicholls and John Curtis Junr are Chosen Surveyors of High Wayes for the Year Insuing voted

and Sarj^{t} John Curtis and Corp^{ll} Jacob Town are Chosen ffence Viewers for ye year vot^{d}

Liev^{t} Ephraim Dorman; Corp^{ll} Ephraim Willds and Thomas Robinson are chosen Tithing men for the year Isuing voted

and Joshua Town and Joseph Robinson are chosen field Drivers for ye year Insuing vot^{d}

and Samuel Stanley is Chosen School Master for ye year Insuing voted

the Town agreed to give Samuel Stanley Twenty Shillings for keeping Schooll for the Town this year Insuing voted

the Town agreed that the present Select Men shall Cast up Zacheus Gould's Rate and make report to the Town at a Town Meeting vot^{d}

the Town agreed that So long as Zacheus Perkins doth maintain a Sufficent Cart Bridge over the Brook by his House; So long said Perkins Shall be freed from other Highway Work in the Town voted

The Town Oficers all Sworn to the ffaithful discharge of their Respective Offices by the Select Men—March ye first one Thousand Seven Hundred fourteen

attests Samuel Stanley Town Cler.

At a Lawfull Town Meeting on ye Ninth Day of May 1715 Thomas Robinson and John Cummings was chose to Serve on ye Grand Jury at the Superiour Court to be Holden at Ipswich on Tuesday next Insuing the Date here of; and Corp^{ll} Jacob Town and Micheal Dwaniel Junr are Chosen to serve on the Jury of Trials at ye Court aboves^{d} voted

Liev^{t} Tobijah Perkins is Choosen Representitive for the Year Insuing voted

We whose Names are under Writen being Chosen for the Town of Salem and Topsffeld to Perambulate on the Bounds between Said Towns; Have accordingly renewed them: viz: a Red oke Tree with a Heap of Stones about it; Commonly Called Crumwells Rock Near the River from thence to a Heap of Stons between three White oke Trees by a great Ash Swamp, then to a Heap of Stones near Nickollses Brook, then to a Dry Tree with a Heap of Stons at it Near the Head of Smiths Meadow; then to a Crooked Black oke Tree near Weell Brook; then to a White oke Tree with Stons at it near Wenham highway. the 5th of April 1715

for Topsfield
Samuel Howlett
Joseph Town
Amos Dorman

for Salem
Ezekiel Cheever
John Trask
James Putnum
Israell Porter
Benjamin Holton
Thomas Symonds

Copia vera attest Samuel Stanley Town Cler

Wee whose Names are here under Writen being appointed to Perambulate the line between Ipswich & Topsfield; Have agreed on the Bounds formerly Recorded and renewed them as witness our Hands

for Topsfield
Corpll Ephraim Willds
Joseph Borman
May 24th 1715

for Ipswich
Robart Lord
Nehemiah Hart
Phillip Rowler Junr

Copia vera Attests Samuel Stanley Town Clerke for Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town Meeting on the 13th of September 1715. William Town and John Curtis are Chosen to Serve on the Jury of trials at Newbury Court next to be holden on ye Last Tuesday Instant
voted

the Town have allowed Sarjt Daniel Clarke tenn Shillings which the Select Men allowed him for the Pound voted

At a Lawfull Town Meeting of the Town of Topsfield December the fift 1715 it was agreed that if any person fall any Tree or Trees upon our Towns Common they shall forfit the Sum of Ten Shillings for Every Tree or pole under a foot over at the stump; and Twenty Shillings for Every Tree that is a foot over at the Stump and upwards and if any Wood be caried out of our Town that was at first taken upon the said Common they shall pay the Sum of Twelve Shillings for Every Load so caried of voted

the Town hath chosen Ephraim Willds and Sarj^{t} Daniel Clarke both or Either of them to prosecute against the breakers of this act or by law and the Town will bear them out in their Lawfull proceeding therein voted

Taken up by Nathaniel Borman of Topsfield a stray Heifer; darke Cullered on the sides and white on her Belly White on her Back White on her Tail; a Swallows Tail cut out of both Ears and two half penys Cut out of her left Ear
Dat^{d} 6th Decem^{r} 1715

Att a Lawfull Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on January the 18th 171$\frac{4}{5}$ the Town agreed to Divide the Common to Every Householder an Equal Share Excepting Tennants voted

Boston May y^{e} 26th 1715
Rec^{d} of Mr Thomas Town Constable of Topsfield one Pound Two Shillings five pence in full by the Hand of Mr Tobijah Perkins for Mr Jeremiah Allen Tres^{r} Pr James Gooch, Junr

Copia vera attests Sam Stanley Town Cler

Rec^{d} of Thomas Town Constable of Topsfield the Sum of Twenty Shillings upon the account of said Towns County Rate for his part Rec^{d} Ipswich April 5th 1714 John Appleton County Trea^{r}

Copia vera attests Sam^{ll} Stanley T. Cler.

At a Lawfull Meeting of the Town of Topsfield December the fifth 1715 it was agreed that if any person fall any Tree

or Trees upon our Town Common they Shall forfit the Sum of Tenn Shillings for Every Tree or Pole under a foot over at the Stump: and Twenty Shillings for Every Tree that is a foot over at the Stump: and upwards: and if any Wood be carried out of our Town that was at first taken upon our Said Common they shall pay the Sum of Twelve Shillings for Every Load so carried of

voted

at a general Sessions of the Peace Holden at Salem December 27th 1715 the above by Laws were Read considered and allowed and confirmed.

attests Stephen Sewall Cler

Copia vera Attests Samll Stanley Town Cler.

Recd of Mr Thomas Cave Consta of Topsfield Seven Pounds & Eight Shillings in full by Mr Jacob Eastey Pr Jerem Allen Trear

Copia vearah attests Samll Stanley T. Cler.

At a Lawfull Town meeting on March the Sixth; being the yearly Meeting for the year 171$\frac{5}{6}$ Deac: Howlett was Chosen Moderator for said Day

voted

Samuel Stanley is Chosen Town Clerk for the year Insuing

voted

William Town and Job Averell are Chosen Constables for the Year Insuing

voted

Cler. Elisha Perkins; Ebenezer Averell; John Hovey; Amos Dorman and Thomas Robinson are Chosen Select-Men for the year Insuing

voted

Ens. Timothy Perkins is Chosen Grand-Jury man for ye Insuing year

voted

Edward Putnum is Chosen to serve on the Jury of trials at Ipswich Court next

voted

Timothy Perkins Junr; Ivory Hovey and Eliezer Lake and William Hobs are chosen Surveyers of High Wayes for the year Insuing

voted

Mr Isaac Peabody and Nathaniel Borman are Chosen ffence viewers for ye year Insuing voted

and Corp^ll Joseph Town; Benjamin Bixby and Jacob Eastey are Chosen Tithing Men for the year Insuing voted

The Town agreed that the present Select men Shall Cast up Zacheus Goulds Rates and what they finde wanting they are to allow him voted

At a Lawfull Meeting of the Select men on the Sixth Day of March 171$\frac{5}{6}$ The Town Officers were all Sworn to the faithfull discharg of their Respective Offices before the Select men. Attests Sam^ll Stanley Town Cler

March 13th 171$\frac{5}{6}$ Corp^ll Joseph Towne was Sworn to the faithfull discharge of his Office by the Select men: He being Chosen a Tithing-man attests Sam Stanley T Cler.

Rec^d of Mr Thomas Cave Const^a of Topsfield Seven Pounds and Eight Shillings in full by Mr Jacob Eastey Pr Jer. Allen Trear

Boston Decem^r 6th 1715

At a Lawfull Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on the 19th Day of March 171$\frac{5}{6}$ Samuel Stanley is Chosen School Master for the year Insuing voted

The Town agreed to give Samuel Stanley forty Shillings to be School Master for the Town the year Insuing voted

The Town agreed that Euery freeholder now Inhabitant in the Town that hath Twenty Acres of Land in the Town part of it meadow are made Commoners, and accordingly shall Share in the Town Common for Wood, timber, Herbige and other Common privilidges voted

At a Lawfull Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield the 8th Day of May 1718 Sarj^t Daniel Clarke is Chosen Representitive for the year Insuing voted

Deac Samuel Howlett and Mr Isaac Peabody are Chosen to serve on the Grand Jury at the Superiour Court to be holden at Ipswich next after the Date hereof voted

Nathaniel Averell and Nathaniel Borman are chosen to Serve on the Jury of Trials at the above s^d Court voted

The Town have Impowered the Selectmen to take all Leagal Methods for the having a way Lay'd out From Topsfield Town to Ipswich Town by Sarj^t William Howletts House voted

The Town agreed and Chose a Commity to Seat the Meeting House voted

Corp^ll Joseph Town; Amos Dorman Ens. Timothy Perkins; Corp^ll Ephraim Willds and Samuel Stanley are Chosen a commitie to Seat the Meeting House voted

At a Lawfull meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on the thirteenth Day of June 1716 the Town then gave Liberty to some young People; properly belonging to the Town; to Set up a Seat over the Womens Gallery Stares voted

Rec^d of Jacob Eastey as Constable for Topsfield; for the year 1713 what was Commited to him to colect for my use by the Selectmen of Topsfield afores^d I say rec^d in full P^r me

Topsfield May 8th 1716 Joseph Capen

Copia vera Attests Samuel Stanley T. Cler.

At a Lawfull Meeting of the Town Topsfield on y^e 18th Day of September 1716 Timothy Perkins and Joseph Gould were Chosen to Serve on the Jury of Trials at Newbury Court next voted

At a Lawfull Meeting of y^e Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on the 12th Day of March 171$\frac{6}{7}$ Samuel Stanley is Chosen Town Clerke for the year Insuing voted

Thomas Gould and Edward Putnum are Chosen Constables for the year Insuing voted

Deac Samuel Howlett, Corp^ll Joseph Town, Mickeal Dwinell, Jacob Peabody and Samuel Stanley are Chosen Select men for y^e year Insuing voted

Lt Thomas Baker and Joshua Town are Chosen to Serve on the Jury of Trials at ye next Court to be held at Ipswich voted

John Cummings is Chosen Grand-Jury man for ye year Insuing voted

Thomas Robinson Joseph Robinson and John Willds are Chosen surveyers of highwayes for the year Insuing voted

Cler. Elisha Perkins and Sar^{t} Daniel Clarke are chosen ffence viewers for the year Insuing voted

Cler. John ffrench, Joseph Junr and Ivory Hovey are Chosen—Tithing for the year Insuing voted

John Dwiniell and Eliezer Lake are Chosen fieldrivers for ye year Insuing voted

the Town agreed that all Strays taken up in ye Town shall be brought to the Pound on ye Second tuesday of November by them that have taken them up or Information of such Strays as they have in Custidy voted

the Town agreed that noe Rames shall go upon the Town Common from the first Day of next August to the Last Day of October next voted

the Town Officers were Sworn to the faithfull discharg of their Respective Offices before y^{e} Select Men on March the 12th 171$\frac{6}{7}$

attest Samuel Stanley Town Clerke: Topsfield

Samuel Stanley was chosen School-Master for the year Insuing voted

Edward Putnum was Sworn to the office of a constable on the first Day of Aprill 1717 before the Select Men

attests Samuel Stanley Town Cler.

Rec^{d} of Samuel Stanley the Sum of fifty two Shillings and Six pence one of the Select men and Clerke for the Town of Topsfield, it being Money ordered to me by the Town of Topsfield: as part of Six pounds which Said Town allowed

for my use Instead of about tenn pounds arrears due to me from the Inhabitants of Boxford upon their goeing from Topsfield; and was accordingly accepted of me I say received the Sum above said: and on the account abovesd.

this first Day of Decem^{r} 1714

Joseph Capen

Copia vera Attests Samuel Stanley Town Cler.

Rec^{d} of Corp^{ll} Ephraim Willds as Select Man for the Town of Topsfield for the year 1714 the Sum of thirty Nine Shillings and tenn pence; it being in consideration of Six Pounds order to me for the clearing up of Boxford Arrears Due to me. I say received the Sum above sd this first Day of March 17$\frac{14}{15}$

P^{r} me Joseph Capen

Copia vera attests Sam^{ll} Stanley Town Cler.

We whose Names are under writen being Chosen and Impowered by the Select Men to lay out a Highway from Paul Averells Land to the Road by Ebenezer Nickolses House, accordingly have done it, begining at Paul Averells Land; and have layd it out two Rods wide all the way keeping the olde plain Path till we come a Cross the Plane in John Cummings Land: and then turning to the right Hand as the Way is now lay'd out, till we come to Cor^{p} Joseph Towns Land and from the uper Side of the Way in Corp^{ll} Joseph Towns Land; the two Rods being allow'd on the North & North East Side of the Way till we come to Mr Peabodys Land: and as the Road is lay'd out, till we come to William Hobses Land; and as the Road is lay'd out till we come to Thomas Robinsons Land; and as the Road is till we come in to the olde Road.

Dated y^{e} 12th of march 171$\frac{6}{7}$

Thomas Robinson
Joseph Knight
Elisha Perkins

Copia vera Attests Sam^{ll} Stanley Town Cler.

At a Lawfull Meeting of y^{e} Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on the third Day of May 1717 Deac. Samuel Howlett is Choosen Representitive for the year Insuing voted

Capt. Tobijah Perkins and Deac. Daniel Redington are Choosen to Serve on the Grand Jury, and John Hovey Junr & John Howlett are choosen to Serve on the Jury of Trials att the Superiour Court next to be holden at Ipswhich voted

The Town agreed to prefer to the General Court a Petition for a line to be run between Rowley Topsfield and Boxford according to General Court Grant voted

the Town agreed that the Select men shall git a Petition drawn up to Send to the General Court for the Buissiness aforesd voted

The Town agreed that all Rams shall be taken up that are found running upon our Town Common from the Twenty fifth Day of July next, to the last of october next voted

At a Lawfull meeting of ye Town of Topsfield on the tenth Day of September 1717 Clarke John ffrench and Ivory Hovey was Chosen to Serve on the Jury of trials at Newbury the 24th Currant voted

This may certifie the Hond Court now Siting at Newbury on ye 24th Currant that we the Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield are willing & desierous that a Country Road be layd out from the Town of Biffilld along by Nehemiah Abbitts and so to the Country Road that goeth through our said Town voted

at a Town Meeting on the Tenth Day of Septr 1717 We whose Names are under Writen being desiered To lay out a way from the Road that is lay'd out thrugh Mr Peabodys Land & Jesse Dormans Land to Ipswich to the Bridg to Jacob Peabodys Land: accordingly we have don it: and have laid it out as the way now goes to said Jacob Peabodys Land

Samuel Howlett
Samuel Stanley
Michael Dwaniel
Select men of Topsfield

Datd 3d octo 1717

Copia vera attests Samll T. Stanley Clerk

At a Lawfull Meeting of ye Select men on the third Day of octo^{r} 1717 we then went and Laid out a Country Road from Ipswich line, near ye uper End of m^{r} Bakers Pond so called along as y^{e} way now goes to Leivt Ephraim Dormans; and So on as the Road now goes to Capt John Hows

Samuel Howlett
Samuel Stanley
Michael Dwaniel

Copia vera Attests Sam^{ll} Stanley T. Cler

at a Lawfull Town Meeting on y^{e} Seventh Day of Jan^{r} 171$\frac{7}{8}$ the Town then granted Liberty to y^{e} Inhabitant of y^{e} said Town to cut Wood upon y^{e} common for there own use and not to Cary Any out of our Said Town Voted

There is a Stray mare taken up in Topsfield about five or Six years olde a Black mare with a white Blaeze in Her face with a little Black Spot in the White right between Her Eyes, with a little on Her fore feet & white on Her hinder feet up to Her Hams almoste aprised at five Pounds and the Mare is Shod round. Dat Decem^{r} 11th 1717

to Thomas Gould Constabel of Topsfield

for His mag^{hise} Name you are required forth with to warn all the freeholders & other Inhabitants of ye said town rateable at twenty pounds estate besides ye poll to meet at ye meeting house in Topsfield afore^{sd} on Tuesday next at nine of ye clock in ye forenoon then & there to Elect and depute Selectmen Constable and other Town officers as ye Law directs to sarve this Town for ye yeare Insuing and to agree upon the granting such sum or sums of mony as shall be thought nead full for defraying all nesary Charges ariseing within said town and to agre and conclud upon any other mate[r]s or things which shall y^{n} be though nead full to promote y^{e} benefit and welfare thireof as also to chuse Jury men for Ipswich cort herre of fail not make return of your doings thire in unto my self before y^{e} said time of meating dated in Topsfield the 1: Day of march 171$\frac{7}{18}$ by order of y^{e} select men of sd town Samuel Stanley town clark Thomas Gould Constable

at the anuall Town meeting of the Town of Topsfield in March 1717 Mr. Nathaniel Porter was chosen Town clark for s^d Town for the year insuing and sworn

uoted y^t Ivury Houey and Elelisah Putnum are chosen constabels for ye yeare insuing

uotd John Howlet Amos Dorman insi^n John gould Jacob Pebody and Nathaniel Porter chosen selectmen for ye yere insuing

uoted Eleisha Perkins are Chosen gran Jury man for ye yere insuing

uoted Nathaniel Aurel and John Howlit are chosen to saruv on ye Jury of trilis at ye next court to be holdon at Ipswich

uoted Nathaniel Borman Joseph Goold and John Nickels are chosen tithing men for the yeare insuing

uoted m^r William Porter m^r John Capen Ebenezer Nickells and Left Joseph Borman are chosen serueyers of ye hiewayes

uoted Thomas Goodaell is chosen scoolmaster for ye yeare insuing by ye Town alowed him Twenty Shillings Sallerrery

Joshua Town and Jacob Robinson are chosen fenceuiers for ye yeare insuing uoted

Samuel Howlet and John Gefords are chosen fealds Driuers for ye yeare insuing uoted

John Redinton is chosen cealler of Leather for ye yeare insuing sum of ye Town offersers ware Sworn before ye selectmen to the faithfull Descharg of thire Respectiue ofises on ye 4: march 1717-18

as atest Nathaniel Porter Town Clark

march: 1717-18 ye rest of ye Town ofisers ware sworn before ye Select men in y^r respective oficeses who was John Capen Jacob Robinsons Ebenezer Nickells and William Porter as atest Nathaniel Porter Town Clark

March y^{e}: 26; 1718; The selectmen ware sworn asessors to the faithfull descharge of there duty before the Town Clark and selectmen

as atest Nathaniel Porter Town Clark

apriell the 28; 1718

Wee whose names are here unto subcribed being chosen the Town of Salem and the Town of Topsfield to meet to gather to Preambelate between the Towns and renewed bounds betwene the sd. Towns haue owned and reneud those bounds as foloweth beginning at a read oke tree with an heep of stones at it commonly called Cromwells Roock neare the riuer from thence to an heep of stons between Three white okes trees by a great ashe swampe then to an heep of stonse neare Nickcols brook Then to a driey tree with an heepe of stones at it neare the head of Smith meadow then To a crocked black oke neare wheall brook then to a white oke tree with stones at it neare whenham highway

for Topsfield	for Salem
John Gould	Nathaniel Putnum
Michael Dwinel	Zorobabel Rea
John Curtis	James Putnum Junr

Copia uari attst Nathaniel Porter Town clark

Essex To Mr Iuory Houey constabel of Topsfield greating In his maiestis Name you are Required forthwith to warn the freeholders and other Inhabitants of Topsfield in youre presink qualified according to Law for uoting to meet at ye Meeting house on Tuseday the thirteenth of May next ensuing at two of ye clock in ye afternoon :1: To chuse a representatiue to sarue at ye General Court :2: to Chuse Jury men for Ipswich Court and make return of yaire so doing at or before said time of meeting fail not as you will answer it at ye perill of ye Law By order of ye Selectmen of Topsfield Dat Topsfield. Apriel :23: 1718

Nathaniel Porter Town Clerk

At a lawfull meeting of ye Town on y^{e} :13: of May: 1718: Dack Daniel Redinton is chosen moderater for ye meting

uoted

Dack Samuel Howlett is chosen Representatiue uoted

Ephefim Wills and Joseph Borman is chosen to sarue on ye gran Jury at Ipswich Cort

John Houey is chusen to Sarue on ye Jury of trialls a^t ye next Superior Court to be held at Ipswich

At a Lawfull meeting of ye inhabitance of ye Town of Topsfield on y^e :23: of may; 1718; capt John how was moderator for ye meeting the Town made choys of Jacob Town Epheriam Wills and John Curtis a commity to uew and to set a uallaution according to thire best skill and Judgment of what ye cost may amount to in rebuilding and repaireing our Bridg and caseway ouer Ipswich reuer and prefar the same with a petition to ye honered court of qurter seshition to be holden at Salem in June next insuing the date hereof to see whether ye honored court will asist us with help from the county so that we may be inabeled to rebuild the aboue said Bridg and caseway uoted

may the :23: 1718

We whose names are underwritten being apointed and impoured to preambleate and renew bounds Betwen Wenham and Topsfield by our Respectiue Towns and we haue meet and preambleated the Bounds and reneued the bounds at the maples and so as the Brook Runs by and old maple stub by ye way going ouer into the medows to a stak and heap of stons in ye brook then to the corner of pigden medow so to ye riuer according to the settlement of our Towns: 1694 then from the said maples towards the cassaway to the tree mentioned in the agreement Betwen our Towns: 1682: which bound we do agree unto

John How	John Gott
Thomas Town	William Rogers
John Curtis	Selectmen for
John Dwinel	Wenham
for Topsfield	

Copia vera attst Nathaniel Porter Town Clark

These are to giue notis to the inhabitance of the Town of

Topsfield qualified according to for uoting to meet at the meeting house on Wensday the ninth day of July instant at two of the cloock in the after noone :1: to consider which way the Town will rebuild the Bridg ouer the riuer and to act upon it as ye Town then shall see cause :2: to see whether ye Town will chuse a commity to new seeat ye meeting house :3: to consider whether the Town will seat or dispose of ye pue in ye west end of ye meeting house not yet disposed of as ye Town then shall see cause.

At a Lawfull meeting of the Town of Topsfield on y^e^ :9: day of July 1718 Mr Iaac Pebody was choson moderater for y^t^ meeting uoted

The Town did manifest by a uote y^t^ thay would rebuild ye Bridg anew ouer ye reuer:—uoted that the Bridg ouer the riuer should be done by a reat uoted

that the Town would chuse a comity to agree with carpenters for to rebuild ye Bridg ouer ye reuir:

Mr Iaac Pebody quer^t^mas^t^ Ephefraim Wills and Mr Simon Bredstret is choson a comity to agree with Carpenters to build ye Bridg ouer ye riuer and the Town do giue them full Power to Build ye abouesaid Bridg and the Town will stand to what they shall do in that mater uoted

Mr Daniel Clark Cla^r^ Elisha Perkins mr Nathaniel Aueral corp Joseph Town and Nathaniel Porter are chosen a comity to new seat the meting house: uoted

the Town granted the pue in ye west corner of the meeting house to Nathaniel Porter for him and his family to set in prouided he paies for ye Building of ye said pue uoted

Esex ss To mr Elisha Putnam Constable of Topsfield Greeting &c

You are Required in his majesties Name forthwith to warn the Inhabitance of youre Town on ye south side of the riuer Lawfully quallified for voting To meet at ye meeting house on Tuesday ye sixtenth of this stant at one of ye clock in ye afternoon

to chuse two men to sarue on ye Jury at y^t^ next Inferiour Court at Newbery 2^ly^ to see if ye Town will add somthing unto m^r^ Capens sallery or agree y^t^ his sallery shall be paid all in money

To see if ye Town will giue Nathaniel Porter Liberty to make a small window in ye side of ye meeting house against his Pue

to Take care y^t^ ye casments or any other Part of ye meeting house be Repaired y^t^ wants Repairing make retorn at or before ye said time of meeting file not as you will answer ye contrary

Jacob Peabody
in ye Name and by y^e^
order of ye Selectmen of
Topsfield

Dated Topsfield
September y^e^ :11: 1718

At a Lawfull Town meeting of ye Inhabitance of ye Town of Topsfield on y^s^ :16: of September 1718 Capt Tobijah Perkins was chosen moderator for y^t^ meeting voted

mr Tobijah Perkins and Thomas Goodhall was chosen to sarue on ye Jury of Trialls at Newbury Court next uoted

The Town did manifest by a uote y^t^ m^r^ Capens sallery should be Raised to Eighty Pounds for this yeare and the whole Eighty Pounds should be all paid in money or Bills of Credeat voted

it is granted y^t^ Nathaniel Porter has Liberty to make a window in ye side of ye meeting house aganst his Pew uoted

it is left to ye Selectmen to repair ye meeting house whare it wants repairing uoted

Wee whose names are under writen being desireed by some of ye Inhabitance of our Respectiue Towns to Lay out a Town way from the road that goes by m^r^ John Capens to ye road that goes by Thomas Andrews barn acordingly we haue Laid out said way as followeth begining at m^r^ Capens casaway so called along as the Lane now goes by the Land of Sa^r^ Daniel Clark upon Thomas Goulds and Ensin John Goulds Land to ye Land of Benjamine Byxbe and so a Long between the abouesaid Benjamine Byxby house and barne to

ye Broock as ye way was formerly Improued and so along ouer ye Broock upon ye aboue said Benjamin Byxby Land as ye way was formerly improued to Thomas Andrews his Land the aboue said way is to Enter upon Thomas Andrews Land about Three or fore rods to ye westward of a great Rock that is a bound betwen Thomas Andrews and Samuel Smith and so a Long as The way is now Improued to the road y^t goocs by Thomas Andrews Barn the abouesaid way is Layd out two rods wide

Dat^d in Topsfield y^e :16: of october: 1718

John Gould

	Joseph Byxby	John Howlett
Copia vara attst	Samuel Symonds	Jacob Peabody
Nathaniel Porter	Epheraim Dorman	Nathaniel Porter
Town Clark	Selectmen of Boxford	Selectmen of Topsfield

The: 28th day of october: 1718

we ye Subscribers being apinted and Impowered by ye Selectmen of Ipswich and Topsfield to Perambulate the Line betwen sd Towns haue Accordingly been on sd Line and find the Bounds in order and Renewed the same the day and yeare abouesaid

witness our hands

Topsfield men	copia uari: attst	Robert Lord
John Howlitt	Nathaniel Porter	Nathaniel Hart
Jacob Peabody	Town Clark	Thomas Safford
		of Ipswich

All the freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield are Required in his maiesties name to meet at ye meeting house on fryday y^e :31: of this Instant at Twelue of the Clock on said day to aLow Bills of charge by order of ye Selectmen of Topsfield October y^e:25: 1718

Elisha Putnam Constable of Topsfield

At a Lawfull meeting of ye inhabitance of ye Town of Topsfield on y^e :31: day of october: 1718 mr Isaac Peabody was chosen moderator for y^t day

uoted

the Town alowed the asessors for there charges in ye ualouations of the Towns estate fiue pounds six shillings six pence

uoted

the Town alowed to John Howlett and Jacob Peabody foure shillings for preambleing with Ipswitch uoted

The Town alowed to In^{s} John Gould John Curtis and Michel Dwinel for preambleing with Salem six Shillings uoted

The Town alowed to John french Daniel Clark and Amos Dorman six shillings for gooing to preambuling with Boxford uoted

The Town alowed to Corp^{ll} Jacob Town qu^{r} Ephraim Willds an John Curtis one pound ten shillings for ueweing ye Bridg and perfiering a petition to ye Court uoted

The Town alowed to Mr Nathaniel Capen for makeing some casements to ye meeting two pounds ten shillings uoted

The town alowed to Jacob Perkins for mending ye glase in the meeting house one pound fiueten shillings uoted

The Town alowed to William Auriel eighting shillings for sweeping the meeting house uoted

The Town alowed to Mr Isaac Peabody Q^{rtmr} Eperaim Willds and Mr Simon Bradstreet twenty fiue pounds nine shillings for Building ye Bridg uoted

The Town did menefest by and that the Selectmen should Raise mony for to pay thire representitiue for this yeare without coming to the Town

the Town alowed to Sar Stanly Deac Howlit Joseph Town and Michel Dwinel eight shillings for Laying out a highway in ye yeare 1717 uoted

Recued of Constable Borman of Topsfield ye sum of Three pounds seuen shillings and two pence for ye county rate it being full for ye said Town :may:17: 1713

Pr John Apleton County treasurer

Copia vari atest Nathaniel Porter Town Clark

The freeholders and other Inhabitances of the Town of Topsfield Quallified according to Law for voting are to Take notice to meet at our meeting house in Topsfield on the

first Tuseday in march next at eight of ye clock in ye forenone first to chuse Town officers: 2dly to consider of the petition of some of our Towns men that Liue on ye west of Nickeolses Broock and to act as shall then be thought Best: 3dly to consider of ye petition of m^r Isaac Peabody for a peace of Land neare the mill pond and to act upon it: 4:ly to agree upon some way to preserue ye wood and Timber y^t is upon our Town Common Land and find out some way to preuent the carring of wood and Timber from of our Common Land out of ye Town or to devide our Common Land or ye wood and Timber y^t is on it or to agree upon any other way or method to act concerning it as shall then be Thought most benefitiall to ye Town and allso to do any other thing or things that shall then be Thought neadfull or proper to be done for ye benifit of ye Town and to Chuse Jury men for Ipswitch Court

Dat^d in Topsfield: 14th day of febuary: 1718-19

Elisha Putnam
Constabel of Topsfield

By order of ye Selectmen
Nathaniel Porter Town Clark

At a Lawfull Town meeting of ye inhabitance of Topsfield being ye annuall meeting on ye third day of march: 1718-19 Capt Tobijah Perkins is Chosen moderator for ye day uoted

Nathaniel Porter is chosen Town Clark for ye yeare insuing
uoted

m^r Syman Bradstreet and m^r Joseph Knight is Chosen Constabel for ye yeare insuing
voted

Jacob Town John Houey John Howlett Jacob Peabody and Nathaniell Porter is Chosen Selectmen for ye yeare insuing
uoted

Ens^n John Gould is Chosen Town Treshour for ye yeare insuing
voted

John Avril Michel Dwinel and Timothy Perkins Junr are Chosen Tyingmen for ye yeare insuing
voted

Edward Putnam John Curtis Nathaniel Borman & Jacob Dorman is Chosen Seruavis of the Highways for ye yeare insuing
uoted

Amos Dorman and Joseph Town is Chosen fenceuiers for ye yeare insuing
uoted

Jesse Dorman & Benjamin Town is chosen feild driuers for ye y^{e}are insuing
uoted

Job Avriel is Chosen Scoollmaster for ye yeare insuing
uoted

Deac^{n} Daniel Redington is chosen to sarue on ye gran Jury at Ipswitch Court next
uoted

michel Dwinel and Zeccheus Gould is Chosen to sarue on ye Jury of trialls at Ipswich Court next
uoted

John Redington is chosen seeller of Leather for ye yeare insuing
uoted

John Houey John Howlett and Jacob Peabody are chosen in behalf of ye Town of Topsfield to go to ye Town of Ipswitch to demand a Highway to be Laid out from Ipswitch Town by William Goodhuses to grauely Brookk neare ye reuer and from thence by ye house y^{t} was formerly m^{r} William Howletts to Topsfield Line and in case y^{t} Ipswitch Town neglects or refuse to Lay out said way then y^{e} abouesaid John Houey John Howlett and Jacob Peabody are Impowered to make aplication to any Court of Qurter sesions to be holden in y^{e} County of Ssex

March: $^{th}_{3}$: 1718-19
Joseph Knight was sworn to y^{e} faithfull discharg of his respectiue offis

Jese Dorman and Benjamin Town was sworn to y^{e} faithfull discharg of thire respectuie offisses:

John Auriel and michel Dwinel was sworn to y^{e} faithfull discharg of their respectuie offises

Nathaniel Borman John Curtis and Jacob Dormon was sworn to the faithfull discharg of thire respectiue offises

Ensign John Gould is sworn to y^{e} faithfull discharg of his respectuie ofis

John Redington was sworn to y^e faithfull discharg of his respectuie offiss

Before y^e Selectmen and Town Clark march: $^{th}_{6}$: 1718-19 m^r Symon Bradstreet was Sworn to y^e faithfull discharg of his respectuie offise

Amos Dorman was sworn to y^e faithfull discharge of his respectuie offis

Timothy Perkins was sworn to y^e faithfull discharg of his respectuie offis

Edward Putnum was sworn to y^e faithfull discharg of his respecttuie offis

Before ye Selectmen and Town Clark

The Inhabitants of Topsfield Qualified according to Law for voting are to Take notis to meet hear at ye meeting house in Topsfield on friday the Thirteenth of this Instant march at twelve a clock on said day :1: to chuse a schoolmaster :2^d: to considerd how to Improve ye Common Land In Topsfield and to make any act concerning it as ye Town shall then think best 3^d to consider of m^r Isaac Pebodys and Leuetenant Beakers petitions and act as ye Town shall then think best :4^thly: to chuse men to agree with or prosecute Edward Nealand for falling a tree on our Town Common

If the Town shall then think Best

By order of ye selectmen
Nathaniel Porter Town Clark

Deated march the :6: of 1718-19
Simon Bradstreet Constable

At a Lawfull Towne meeting of ye inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on the 13: of march 1718-19 :1: deaccon Daniel Redington was chosen moderator for that meeting

Leuit Thomas Beaker was chosen scholmaster for ye yeare insuing

The Town agreed to deuide all the common Lands belonging to ye Town of Topsfield both on the north and south side of Ipswitch Ruier and that all the free house holders

belonging to said Town of Topsfield shall haue an Equal share in said common Lands according to the Reats that haue been paid by the present free house holders and thire predesessors in the Estate that Each house hollder is att present possesed of euer sence the yeare :1715 pole money exemted voted

Amos Dorman Entered his Contrey Decent to this Last uot[e]

the Town agreed y^t thire shall be nithere tree or trees be cut down or sell on the Common Lands belonging to ye Town of Topsfield on the penalty as the Law directs for Trespas in prepriety after the Date heareof before the first day of october next after the date heareof unless it be devided before: voted

all The freeholders of ye Town of Topsfield Qualified according to Law for voting are to Take notice to meet att thire meeting house next monday comfortnight which will be ye thirtenth day of aprill next Ensuing the date heare of at nine of ye clock in ye morning

To see if there may be away found out in Lawe to end the diffarance that is betwen ye Town and some pertickeler men who clame ye title of ye common Lands in ye town of Topsfield to them selues and if not to find out away to know what ye Titel is to the common Lands in ye Town of Topsfield and complaint being made: y^t if ye common be deuided it will be hurtfull to more then half the Town and therefore

To see if ye Town will stand by thire Last vote for the diui[s]ion of the Common Land and to act as then shall be thought best in that matter 3 to take care that the Bounds be renewed about the parsonage and any other Thing or things that may be then thought benefissiall for the Town

Dat^d Topsfield march: ^th: 28: 1719 By order of ye Selectmen Nathanial Porter Town Clark Simon Bradstreet Constable

At a Lawfull meeting of ye inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on the 13: of Apriell: 1719

Mr Isaac Peabody was Chosen moderater for that meeting voted

That Town agreed that thay would deuide ye Common Lands in ye Town of Topsfield according to ye vot past on the: 13: of march: 1718-19 for Deuiding of said Common Lands

uoted

John Hovey John Dwiniel Capt John How Amos Dorman and John Jeffords Entred thire Contrey Decent to this Last vot

The Town gaue Liberty to some young persons to build a seat ouer ye gallary stairs in ye Southwest Corner of ye meeting house prouided y^t thay Sect in the Seat and Trobule no other seat in ye meeting house prouided thay buld not the seat in the way of peoples going in to ye gallery Namly John Perkins Nathaniel Auriell Nathaniel Redington Jacob Auriell Jacob Wilds

Sarg John Howlett and Sarg Zechchous Gould are Chosen to Joyn with ye former Commity to new seat ye meeting house Namly Ser^g Daniel Clark Corp Joseph Town and m^r Nathaniel Auriel

uoted

The Town granted Liberty to Iovory Houey Nathaniel Borman and Jacob Robinson to seet up a seat between Nathaniel Porters pue and the west dore

uoted

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield that haue an Estate of freehold in Land within This Prouence or territory of forty Shillings peranaum at the Lest or other Estate to the value of fifty pounds sterling you are to take notis to meet at this meeting house on frieday which will be the fifteenth of May at two of the clock in the after noon firstly to Chose a man to Represent them at at the Court house In Boston: 2^ly To Chuse Three men To serue at Ipswich Court two whereof to sarue upon the Gran Jury and one to serue upon the Jury of trials: 3^ly To see whether the Town will take Care of the wife of William Auriell: 4^ly: to se whether the Town will giue Liberty to sett up Pues under the front gallery

Simon Bradstreett
Constable of Topsfield

John Houey
in ye name and by ye order of ye Selectman of Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on the: 15: of may: 1719 Capt Tobijah Perkins was Chosen moderator for ye day voted

Ensine Timothy Perkins is Chosen representetive for ye yeare insuing voted

Nathaniell Auriell and William Town is Chosen to sarue on ye gran Jury at Ipswitch Court next voted

m^r^ Isaac Peabody is Chosen to Sarue on ye Jury of Trialls at Ipswitch Court next uoted

The Town granted Liberty to ye yong people that haue ye Seats ouer ye stares to make windows against e[a]ch seat under the plate Prouided thay buld them at thire own cost and charge and repair them when thay want repairing at there own Cost and Charg uoted

At A Lawfull Town meeting of the Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on the: 18: day of September: 1719 Deac Samuel Howlett is Chosen moderator for said meeting uoted

Thomas Gould and Jesse Dorman is Chosen to Sarue on ye Jury of Trialls at Newbery Court next uoted

ye Town alowed to Qur^t^master Epheriam Willds 00-14-8 uoted

The Town alowed to John Howlett for keeping the wife of William Auriel and Phisick 2-13-6 voted

The Town alowed to John Redington for a stamp to Seal Leather 0-3-0 uoted

The town alowed to William Auriel for Swepeing ye meeting house 0-18-0 voted

The Town alowed to Deac Samuel Howlett 1-7-0 uoted

The Town alowed to Thomas Gould for mending ye under pinning of ye meeting house 0-4-0 uoted

The Town did manifest by a uot y^t^ m^r^ Capens Sallerey should be as it was ye Last yeare voted

The Town alowed to John Houey for Keep ye wife of William Auriel 0-16-0 voted

Qer^tmaster Epheraim Willds is Chosen ouerseare of ye pore voted

The Town alowed to John Houey for gooing to Ipswitch about the high way 0-2-6 uoted

the Town did menifest by a vot y^t ye people that belongs to ye hind seat in ye west gallerly to haue some of ye old hinges to hang ye gasements in ye meeting house voted

We whose names are under writen haue been desired by m^r Edward Putnam Junier to Lay out a highway through his Land for him self and his naighbours being some of our Towns Inhabitants we haue accordingly laid a highway from the Gate that standeth upon s^d Edwards Land by ye highway that cometh from ye river and so along by ye Easterly End of s^d Edwards house and so on till it goeth through the said Edwards Land as ye path now goeth towards Salem

Jacob Town
Dated October: 23: 1719 Nathaniel Porter
Copia uari attst John Houey
Nathaniel Porter Town Clark Selectmen for Topsfield

Att a Lawfull Town meeting: 1: September: 1719: m^r Isaac Peabody moderator:

The Town agreed that the selectmen shall rais a rate amounting to ten Pounds and commit it to ye Constables to Colect for Ensin Timothy Perkins Representiue y^t is due to him for going to Boston and ye Rest to Lie in ye Treasurers hands till further order for ye Towns use

attest John Houey John Howlett Selectmen

Copia uari attest Nathaniel Porter Town Clerk

The freeholders and others Inhabitants of this Town are to Take notis to meet here at the meeting house next Tuesday ye ninth of this Instant at tow of ye clock in the after noon to preuent the Extravagant cutting down the wood and Timber upon the Common and Carring it out of Town and

to agree upon a suitable meathod for ye preservation of ye same in order to a deuition

Jacob Town
Nathaniel Porter
Dated february: 2^{d}: 1719-20 John Hovey
Simon Bradstreet Constable John Howlett
Jacob Peabody
Selectmen of Topsfield

Att A Lawfull Town meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield the nineth of febuary 1719-20

Capt Tobijah Perkins is Chosen moderator for ye meeting voted

Ephraim Willds and Daniel Clark is Chosen atorneys for ye Town to prosecute any y^{t} has or may Carrey any wood or Timber of from our Common Land Contrery to Lawe voted

The Town did manifest by a vot that if any wood or Timber Lays upon ye ground of our Common Land after ye Last of march next it shall be free for any man to Take away voted

John Hovey entered his contrey desent to this Last vote

The freeholders and other Inhabitance of ye Town of Topsfield Qualified according to Law for Voting are to take notice to meet at Our meeting house on Tuesday ye first day of march next Ensuing ye date heare of at Eight of ye Clock in ye morning 1st to Choose Town officers and to agree with some man to dig the graues and: 2d^{l}y to Choose a comitie to settle bounds between proprietors and ye Town Common that there be no Incroachment made on ye Towns Common Land: 3: ly: to see if ye Town will agree upon a method to divide the undivided Land on ye south side of ye River or the wood and Timber that is on it or else to see if ye Town will proceed in ye Division of all our undivided Common Land on Both sides of ye River according to ye Last vote y^{t} is Entred in our Town Book concerning it or to agree of upon any other way or Methode to Divide Improue or dispose the whole or any part of ye Land that ye mjer

part of the sosiety shall then think to be most for ye publick good 4^ly: To see if the Town will a Low m^r Edward Putnam his Demands for work done at ye highways as a suryeyor [217] and see how ye Town will repair the [Highways] ye future and to see if ye Town will chuse men to prosecute any y^t has or shall carrey any wood or Timber of from our Town Common Land

Jacob Towne
Nath^el Porter
Jacob Peabody
John Howlett
Simon Bradstreet Constable John Hovey
Selectmen for Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on ye first day of March: 1719-20

Capt Tobijah Perkins is Chosen moderator for said meeting voted

Nath^ll Porter is Chosen Town Clark for ye year Insuing voted

William Porter and Jesse Dorman is Chosen Constables for ye year Insuing voted

Ephriam Willds Ivory Hovey Leu Joseph Gould Joseph Town and Elezar Lake is Chosen selectmen for ye year Insuing voted

Jacob Town Joseph Borman and Nath^ll Auriel are Chosen Tithing men for the year insuing voted

Thomas Robinson Joshay Town Isaac Peabody and Daniel Clark is Chosen seavairs for ye high ways for ye yeare insuing voted

Elisha Perkins Jacob Robinson John Burton and John Nickcols is Chosen fence uiers for ye yeare Insuing voted

Benjamin How and John Perkins is Chosen field Driurs for the yeare Insuing voted

John Redington is Chosen Sealer of Leather for ye yeare Insuing voted

Deac Samuel Howlett and Deac Daniel Redington is Chosen ouer seers of ye Pore for ye yeare Insuing voted

John Howlett Natha^ll Auriel and Natha^ll Porter is Chosen to Renew and Settell Bounds Betwen ye propriators of Land Ajoyning upon ye Common and to Loock and see if any Person has incroached any of ye Towns Common and ye Town dos giue them full power to renew and settel ye Bounds betwen ye Common and ye propriators voted

Leu^t Thomas Baker is Chosen Scoolemaster for ye yeare insuing. voted

John Wilds and Joseph Robinson are Chosen to Loock after the horses from gooing at Large upon ye Common Land in Topsfield and to prosecute ye Breakers of that Law voted

Zacheus gould is Chosen to didge the graues voted

The Town agreed to ajorn the meeting to the: 8: day of march Instant at Eight of the Clock in the forenoon voted

march the first: 1719-20 Nathaniel Porter was Sworn to ye faithfull Discharge of a Town Clark

Ephraim Willds Joseph Town Ivory Hovey Joseph Gould and Elezar Lake was sworn to the faithfull discharge of thire duty of being asesars

[218] Elisha Perkins John Nickcols and John Burton are sworn to ye fathfull discharg of thire duty of fence uerues

Jesse Dorman and William Porter are sworn Constables

John Redington is sworn Sealer of Leather

Jacob Town Nathaniel Auriel and Joseph Borman are sworn Tithingmen

Daniel Clark Joshay Town and Thomas Robinson are sworn to ye faithfull discharg of their duty as seruaours of the Highways

John Willds is sworn to the faithfull discharg of his duty

John Perkins is sworn to ye faithfull discharge of his duty

Jacob Robinson is sworn to ye faithfull discharge of his duty

this: 1: of march 1719-20: before the Selectmen

march the: 4: 1719-20 Town offesers before the Selectmen

Joseph Robinson was sworn to ye faithfull discharg of his duty

at a Lawfull Town meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield it being on a Jornment from the first day of march Instant to this day:

Ephriam Willds and Daniel Clark are Chosen agents or atorneys for the Town to sue and prosecute all such as haue allredy or shall here after cut down any tree or trees or carry of any wood or timber of from our Town Common Land in Topsfield Contrery to Law and the Town will beare them out in all theire Lawfull proseeding in y^{t} mater voted

John Hovey is Chosen grand Jury man to Sarue at Ipswich Court on ye Last Tusday of march Instant voted

Nath^{el} Auriel and Leu^{t} Thomas Baker is Chosen to Sarue on ye Jury of Trilalls at ye aboue sd Court voted

ye Town agreed to Chuse a Commity to go to see a strip of Land upon m^{r} Bakers Cost voted

Elisha Perkins Ivory houey and Joseph Town is Chosen for y^{t} purpose and make report at ye next Town meeting thay or ye mager part of them agreeing

The Town agreed to amend ye highways belonging to sd Town of Topsfield by a reat for time to come voted

march ye 8 1719-20 m^{r} Isaac Peabody was sworn to ye faithfull discharg of his duty be fore ye selectmen

The free holders and other inhabitants of our Town qualified acording to Law for voting are to take notis to meet here at the meeting house on friday next which will be the sixt day of may Ensuing the date here of at two of the clock

of noone then and there to Elect and depute one to serue for and represent them in a great and genrall Court to be holden at Boston upon wensday the Twenty fift day of may next Ensuing the date hereof: 2ly By vartu of a Warant from the Clerk of the Superer Court you are to take notis to Chuse three good and Lawfull men to sarue on the Jures two on the grand Jure & one on the Jure of Trilas at the next Superer Court to be holden at Ipswitch on the third Tusday of may next: 3ly: to see if our Town will pass a vot that if any of the Inhabitants of our Town shall hereafter harbor any Tranchant parson aboue two months without giueing notis to the Selectmen of the Town that they may be Prosecuted acording to Law then such Inhabitant shall be Liable to maintain such trainchant parson if they shall stand in need 4ly: to see if the Town will take any Corse aboute the Rams and restrain them from going on our Town Common Land

Dated Topsfield April the 30: 1720
by order of the rest Selectmen of Topsfield Ephraim Wilds
Jesse Dorman Constable of Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on ye: 6: day of may: 1720

Capt Tobijah Perkins is Chosen moderator for ye meeting voted

Capt Tobijah Perkins is Chosen Representitiue to sarue at ye great and Genrall Court

Ephraim Willds and Elisha Perkins is Chosen to sarue on ye grand Jurie at Ipswitch Court next voted

John Howlett is Chosen to sarue on ye Jurie of Trialls at Ipswitch Court next voted

The Town agreed that if any man let his ram run at Large upon our Town Common Land after the Last of July: next to the first of nouember and whosoeuer shall Let his ram run at Large as afore sd his sd ram may be Taken up by any man of our Town and he shall pay five shillings or forfit his ram voted

: the one half of the sum to him that takes up said ram and ye other half to the use of the Town voted

At a Lawfull Town meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on the tenth of June: 1720

Deac: Daniel Redington is Chosen moderator for y^t meeting

Capt Tobijah Perkins is Chosen Representiue to sarue at ye great and generall Court to be holden at Boston

The Inhabitants of this Town such as are deuly qualified acording to Law for Voting are to take notis to meet heare at the meeting house next friday at three of the Clock in the afternoon to make Choise of two good and Lawfull men to sarue on ye Jury of Trialls at the next Inferiour Court of Pleas and genaral sestion to be holden at Newbury Within and for the county of Essex September: the: 10: 1720

Jesse Dorman Constable of Topsfield

[220] At a Lawfull Town meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on the: 16: day of September: 1720 Elezor Lake and Michel Dwinel is Chosen to serue on ye Jury of Trialls at Newbury Court on ye Last tusday of September Instant

The inhabitants of this Town y^t are Qualified according to Law for voating are required to meet at this meeting house on friday ye 4th of nouember next after ye Date here of at one of the Clock after noone first to aLow bills of Charge 2: ly to see if ye Town will giue order for ye shingling or other wise Repairing of ye House y^t William Avrell now Liueth in: 3dly to agree upon a day for ye bringing stray Cretours To ye pound Dated Topsfield y^e: 26: of October: 1720

Iuory Houey in the name and by
order of the selectmen of Topsfield
Jesse Dorman Constable

At a Lawfull Town meeting of the Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on y^e: 4: day of nouember: 1720

Daniel Redington is Chosen moderator for ye day

The Town alowed to Lieu^t Joseph Gould and Ephraim

Wilds Eight Shillings for going to Ipswitch abute Sarah Greenslit voted 0 8 0

alowed to Ivory Houey foure shillings voted 0 4 0

aLowed to Jesse Dorman for careing Sarah Greenslit out of Town five shillings voted 0 5 0

aLowed to Jesse Dorman for waits and meshours seuenteen shilling voted 0 17 0

aLowed to John Houey two shillings voted 0 2 0

and to m^r Simon Bradstreet one shilling 0 1 0
and to John Howlett one shilling 0 1 0
and to Jacob Peabody two shilling voted 0 2 0

The Town Left it to ye selectmen to Repaire the house y^t William Auriell now Lives in voted

The free holders and other inhabitants Qualified acording to Law for voting are to Take notis to meet here at the meeting house next tuesday which will be the fiveteen day of this month of noumber at nine of ye Clock in the forenoon first to aLow Bills of Charge secondly to see If the Town will aLow the nine pounds to add to m^r Capens sallery as formerly and thirdly to agree upon a day to bring in strays to the Pound Dated Topsfield Nouember: 11: 1720 By order of ye rest of ye selectmen Ephraim Wilds

Jesse Dorman Constable of Topsfield

At a Lawfull [220] Town meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on the: 15: day of Nouember: 1720
m^r Jacob Town is Chosen moderator for this meeting voted

alowed to Willm Auriel: 18: shillings for sweeping the meeting voted

alowed to m^r Capen: Eighty pounds as his sallery was ye two Last years voted

alowed to Nath^ll Auerel John Howlett and Nath^ll Porter for Runing of Lines between the Common and Propritores and for paying artis[ts] one pound seventeen shillings and six pence voted 01 17 6

alowed to m^{r} Nath^{ll} Capen for mending the wach house four shillings and six pence voted 00 4 6

alowed to Jonathan Willds one shilling and six pence for meending the watch house voted 0 1 6

The Town agreed to bring in the marks of all the stray Creatours that thay have at their houses unto the house of Daniel Clark on the first Tuesday: 1720

We who are the subscribers hereof hauing complaint made to us that Corp Jacob Towne has set up fence where the road was formerly Laid Throw the southerly corner of his Land we haue bin & vewed the place and do find that the road may convenantly be altred We do Lay out the afore sd road to be where it is now ocipied on the south side of Corp Town his fence as it doth now stand

Dated the: 24th: of nouember: 1720: Epraim Wilds Ivory Houry

Copia uari attest Nath^{ll} Porter Town Clark

Joseph Town Elezer Lake Selectmen of Topsfield

The Inhabitants of this Town qualified acording to Law for voting are to take notis to meet here at the meeting house next Tuesday which will be the twenty seventh day of this month at two of the Clock after noon first to alow Capt Perkins his Bill of Charge for going Representative Secondly to aLow pay for the repairing the house William Auriel liueth in Thirdly to alow Pay for the making a paire of stcox dated Topsfield December the twenty third 1720 in the name and by the order of the Selectmen of Topsfield

Ephraim Wilds Clerk
Jesse Dorman Constable

At a Lawfull Town meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on the: 27: day of December: 1720

The Town alowed Capt Perkins his Lawful demands for going Representative this year voted

Alowed to Mr Nath^{ll} Capen and Jonathan Willds for Repairing ye towns house y^{t} Will:^{m} Auriel now Lives in voted 3 8 00

Alowed to John Willds for making the Towns stoock and for finding ye Iorns and Lock and bringing them to the meeting house and for seeting up sd stoocks 01 04 00
voted

Ipswich the: 16: day of January: 1720-21
Received of Nathaniel Porter the full and just sum of one pound and two shillings which is the full that was due to me for Building the pew that is in the nouwest Corner of Topsfield meeting house
I say Received by me Joseph Whipple

Copia vari attest Nath^ll Porter Town Clark

[222] At a Lawfull Town meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on the 7th of March 1720-21
Capt Tobijah Perkins was chosen moderator for that meeting
voted

Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for ye year Ensuing
voted and Sworn

Joseph Robinson and Ezra Putnam are Chosen Constables for ye year Ensuing. voted. Michael Dwinell accepted and Chosen Constable by the Town for Ezra Putnam voted

Thomas Gould Lieu Thomas Baker Ivory Hovey Amos Dorman and Jacob Peabody are Chosen Selectmen for the year Ensuing
voted

Eliezer Lake Joseph Andrew and John Curtis are Chosen Tithing men for ye year Insuing
voted

John Redington is Chosen Sealer of Leather for ye Insuing year
voted

m^r Daniel Clark & Thomas Caves are Chosen Surveyers of highways for ye Insuing year
voted

Thomas Robinson Nathl Borman Eben^r Nickols and Thomas Perkins Junr are Chosen fence viewers for the year Insuing
voted

Cler Elisha Perkins is Chosen grand Juryman for ye year Insuing
voted

Joshua Town and John Willds are Chosen to serve on ye Jury of Tryals at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

Lieu^t Thomas Baker is Chosen Schoolmaster for the year Insuing voted

The Town agreed to pay to lieu^t Thos Baker fourty shillings for keeping School this present year voted

Eliezer Lake and Samuel Howlett are chosen Hogreeves for ye year Insuing voted

Nat^l Porter Zacheus Gould and Amos Dorman are Chosen a Committe to agree with Edmond Towne and Richard Towne about a strip of Common land which sd Townses Improve and make return of their doings to the Town voted

The officers above Named Chosen to serve the Town for ye year Insuing were all Sworn to the faithfull discharge of their Respective offices (Excepting John Curtis) on the 7th day and on ye 13th day of March Currant before the Selectmen.

Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk for Topsfield

At a Lawful Meeting of ye Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield on March 28th 1721 Mr Daniel Clark Chosen moderator for said meeting voted

Secondly. Nat^l Porter and Zacheus Gould are Chosen to Prosecute the brakers of that Law Relating to horses going on ye Town Common voted

3ly the Town agreed that hogs should go at Large from ye Last of October till the first of Aprill the year Insuing voted

Boston April 17th 1721 Rec^d of m^r Jesse Dorman Const: le of Topsfield

Twenty one Pounds Eight shillings & six pence in full for my ffather

£ 21—8—6 Jer Allen Treas: r

P Ja^s Allen

A true Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler for Topsfield

[223] Rec^{d} of Jesse Dorman Constable for ye town of Topsfield by ye hands of Ensign Tim^{o} Perkins the sum of seven Pounds Nine Shillings in full for ye sd Town for County Rate 7 9 00

Ipswich April 13 1721 P John Appleton County Treasu^{r}

Reced the 9th day of ffebry 1720-21 of Jesse Dorman Constable of Topsfield the sum of three Pounds thirteen shilling and six pence 03 13 06

in answer to an order from ye Selectmen of sd Town I say received by us.

Nathl Capen
Jonathan Willds

Jan^{ry} ye 27th 1720-21 Reci^{d} of m^{r} Jesse Dorman Constable the Sum of one pound four shillings that was alowed to me for making the Towns Stocke. I say Rec^{d} By me John Wilds

Topsfield march 1: 1720-21 Recd of mr Jesse Dorman Constable of Topsfield the sum of two shillings w:ch sd Jesse was ordered to pay me out of the Town rate I say Rec^{d} by me John Hovey

Rec^{d} This 2nd day of march 1720-21 of mr Jesse Dorman Constable of Topsfield the sum of four shillings in answer to an order from ye selectmen of s^{d} Town; I say Recived By me Ivory Hovey

The five Copyes above Entred are true attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

We whose names are under written being Chosen by ye Town of Topsfield to run and Perambulate ye lines between ye Common and ye Proprietors on ye Aprill: 1720. a Line run by m^{r} Josiah Batcheller ye artist

Begining at a great white oak Tree near to Thos Towns which is ye old bound and so easterly 6 rods down to ye medow sides and from ye afore sd white oak westerly: 40 rods to a stake and a heap of stones and at 70: rods a stake and heap of stones at 90: rods a stake and heap of stones at 110: rods a stake and a heap of stones at: 130: rods a stake and a heap of stones at 150: rods a stake and a heap

of stones and so on: 27: rods to a red oak Tree near to Michael Dwinells which is one of ye old bounds: a white oak tree marked between ye Red oak and ye Last heap of stones mentioned ye whole line on y^{t} side is: 183: rods: by this line we finde y^{t} Edmon Town has fenced in a strip of ye Common land.

A True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk:

Nathl Averill
John Howlett
Nathl Porter

The 7: day of Aprill: 1720: a line run by m^{r} Josiah Bacheler the Artist from ye Red Oak, by Michael Dwinels: 27: poles westerly a stake and a heap of stones, at: 47 Rods a stake and a heap of stones: at 67 Rods a stake and a heap of stones: at 87 rods a stake and a heap of stones at: 107 Rods a stake and a heap of stones at: 127: rods a stake and a heap of stones: at: 147: a stake and a heap of stones: at: 167: a stake and a heap of stones at: 207 a stake and a heap of stones: at: 227: a stake & heap of stones at: 247: a stake and a heap of stones at 274: a stake and a heap of stones: at: 294: a stake and a heap of stones at: 314: a stake and a heap of stones at: 334: a stake and a heap of stones at: 354: a stake and a heap of stones at 374: a stake and a heap of stones at: 394: a stake and a heap of stones at: 414: a stake and a heap of stones at 434: Rods a stake and a heap of stones: at: 474: rods a stake and a heap of stones [224] And so: 20 Rods to the black oak by John Curtises: The whole line on y^{t} side is: 494 Rods from the Red or black oak by John Curtecis on a strait line to ye Red oak by Michael Dwinels, We finde that Amos Dorman has fenced in a strip of the Common Land: and Jacob Towne has fenced in a piece of ye Comon land, and part of his barn stands on ye Common Land

Nathl Averill
John Howlett
Nathaniel Porter

A true Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk for Topsfield

June. 27 day: 1720 We whose Names are under writen being Chosen and Impowered by ye Town of Topsfield to run Lines between ye Common and the Proprietors we run a line between Lieu^t Thos Baker and ye Comon: 12 foote from ye corner of the stone wall that goeth into float medow and fro m thence southerly about 80 Rods to a White oak with stones at it near the medow Commonly called ten acre medow and from thence about: 40 rods to a stake and a heap of stones and from thence southerly: 57 rods to a stake and a heap of stones and from thence about: 43 rods to a stake and a heap of stones: and from thence Southerly about 43 Rods to a stake and a heap of stones and from thence about: 60 Rods to a white oak Tree marked and from thence about: 84 rods to a black oak tree marked near bare hill plain

Nath^ll Averill
John Howlett
Nathaniel Porter

A True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Perambulation on the Bounds between Salem and Topsfield: and were impowered by ye Selectmen of Each Town: whereas the Subscribers have Perambulated as may appear viz: Beginning at a Red oak Tree with a heap of stones at it Commonly called Crumwels Rock near the River, from thence to a heap of stones between Three white oak Trees by a great ash Swamp, then to a heap of Stones near Nicholas Brook, Then to a Dry tree with a heap of Stones at it near ye head of Smiths meadow, then to a croocked Black oak tree near Wheel Brook, and then to a white oak tree with stones at near Wenham highway or causway: we have renewed all the above written bounds by casting more stones to Each Bound: as witness our hands

Dated April 17^day 1721

A True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk: for Topsfield

James Houlton
Daniel Epes

Topsfield May: 4—1721 By vertue of a warrant from ye Clerk of ye Superiour Court all ye freeholders and other Inhabitants Qualified according to Law for voting in our town are required to meet here at the meeting house next Wens-

day at three a Clock in ye afternoon to chuse three good and Lawful men Each Whereof to have a real Estate of fourty shillings per annom or other Estate Worth fifty pounds Starling: one to serve on ye grand Jury and two to serve on ye Jury of Tryals

Joseph Robinson Constable

At a Lawfull meeting of ye Town of Topsfield on ye 10th day of May 1721 Capt Tobijah Perkins was Chosen to Serve on ye grand jury and Ensigne John Gould & m^r Daniel Clark are Chosen to serve on ye Jury of Tryals at the next Superiour Court to be holden at Ipswich on the third tusday of May Instant

voted

Received of Constable Jesse Dorman five pounds and ten Shillings in full of that money that was ordered him to pay to me for my being at the general Court Last year I say received by me Tobijah Perkins

Dated the 11th of May 1721

A true Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

[225] The freeholders & other Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified according to Law for Voting are hereby notified and warned to meet here at ye meeting house in Topsfield on munday next which will be ye fiveteenth day of this Instant may at two of ye Clock in the afternoon, 1st to Chuse a Representative. 2^ly to see if ye town will Justifie the Selectmen in their not Perambulating or renewing the bounds between Towns Topsfield & Boxford as ye law directs or consider of some other way & act as the Town shall see cause in y^t regard. 3ly: to Chuse a Committee to Receive the Loan money that shall fall to ye share of our Town of Topsfield & to agree upon some method for ye disposing or Improving the same as the Town shall see cause: also to alow bills of charge attest ye Selectmen of Topsfield

dated ye 9th May 1721

Thomas Gould
Thomas Baker
Amos Dorman

Joseph Robinson Constable

At a Legal meeting of ye Inhabitants of the Town of Tops-

field on May 15th 1721 Dean Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

mr Nathll Porter is Chosen to Represent the Town at ye generall Court voted

The Town agreed to send for our towns part of ye fifty thousand pounds in bills of Creditt according to an act made & passed at ye general Court in March 1720 voted

Lieut Joseph Gould, Lieut Thos Baker, & Sergt John Howlett are Chosen Trustees to Receive ye said money in behalf of ye Town; and said Trustees shall Let out sd money at four per cent: per annum and not to let above twenty pounds nor under five Pounds of sd money to any person whatsoever; and take such security as ye Law Directs: and Shall not let out any of sd money to any out Towns person. and also ye said Trustees shall keep no more of sd money for their own perticuler use then is allowed to any other person. and shall render an account to ye town of their proceeding in yt matter annually as the Law Directs voted

the Town agreed to stand by and bear out ye Selectmen in what they have done relating to Renewing bounds with boxford this year voted

the Town ordered ye Selectmen to draw three pounds twelve shillings out of the Town Treasury for Capt Tobijah Perkins voted

Mr Isaac Peabody mr John Hovey & mr Daniel Clark are chosen a Committee to see if Boxford will Joyn with them to Petition to ye general Court to throw up the Resolve of said Court relating to the line between Topsfield and Boxford voted

Topsfield April: 24th: 1721 We the Subscribers were appointed by ye Selectmen of Topsfield to meet the Selectmen of Boxford to perambulate and renew bounds we did accordingly meet at Capt Perleys and went and renewed all ye bounds we could find with them Elisha Perkins
Daniel Clark

A True Copy attest Jacob Peabody
town Clerk

Topsfield May 19th 1721

By vertue of a precept from Colo: Denison Sheriff The Inhabitants of this Town Qualified acording to Law for Voting. you are notified & warned to meet here at the meeting house next Tuseday which will be ye 23 day of this instant May at Eleven of the Clock in forenoon to Chuse a Representative to Serve at the great & general Court at Boston Thomas Gould Amos Dorman Thos Baker Selectmen of Topsfield
Joseph Robinson Constable

[226] At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on ye 23: day of May 1721 Capt Tobijah Perkins is Chosen Representative for ye town for ye year Ensuing voted

We whose Names are under written being appointed by the Selectmen of our Severall Towns: viz, Wenham and Topsfield to Renew and Perambulate bounds between our Respective towns, as the Law Directs, have according Attended Said Service, and have renewed the bounds from A heap of stones Near to Mr Porters Meadow, according to a Settlement in: 1682: about 15 or 16 Pole Southerly from ye white Oak Tree the Corner bounds between Salem and Topsfield. to ye plump of maples near Charles gotts meadow and so as the Brook Runs by a maple Stube by the way going over into the meadow to a stake and heap of stones in ye Brook from thence to the Southeasterly Corner of Pigdens meadow to a stake and a heap of stones and so to the river according to ye settlement in the year 1694. Which bounds we do agree unto
as Wittness our hands

John How Jacob Town John Curtis	for Topsfield	Samuel Kimball Thos Tarbox Daniel ffisk	for Wenham

May ye 23: 1721

A true Copy as attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Received of mr Jesse Dorman Constable of Topsfield Eight Shillings we say received by us Ephraim Willds
March 7th 1720-21 Joseph gould

March 7th 1721 Received of Constable Dorman Eighteen

shillings in money for sweeping of the meeting house I say Received by me William Averill

Received of m^{r} Jesse Dorman Constable of Tops^{d} one shilling ordered by the Selectmen to me Simon Bradstreet

ffeb^{ry} 20th 1720-21, Received of m^{r} Jesse Dorman Constable of topsfield two shillings in money which the Selectmen ordered him to pay to me

I say Received by me Jacob Peabody

These four receipts last Entred are true copies attest Jacob Peabody town Cler

The freeholders and other inhabitants of this town such as are Qualified According to Law for Voting are hereby notified to meet here at ye meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday ye Eighth day of this Instant August: at two of ye Clock in the afternoon

1 to Chuse a Representative: 2 to see if the Town will give Liberty for ye Erecting of a Seat at Each End of the pulpit.

Dat. August ye 1: 1721 Amos Dorman } Selectmen
Joseph Robinson Constable Thoma Gould } of
Thomas Baker } Topsfield

At a Legal meeting of ye inhabitants of Topsfield August 8th 1721 Capt Tobijah Perkins was chosen Representative

[227] At a Lawfull meeting of ye Inhabitance of ye town of Topsfield on September 12th 1721 Nat^{ll} Averill and Ensigne Timothy Perkins were chosen to Serve on ye Jury of Tryals at ye next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbury voted

At a Legal meeting of ye Inhabitan of ye town of Topsfield on October 10 1721 Ephraim Willdes and Jacob Towne were Chosen to serve on ye grand Jury and Nat^{l} Porter is Chosen to Serve on ye Jury of Tryals at the next Superiour Court to be holden at Salem voted

There being nothing done nor to be done but Jurymen to be Chosen the two last meetings Therefore ye notification was not Entered.

The freeholders and other inhabitants of this Town such

as are Qualified according to Law for voting are hereby notified & warned to meet here at ye meeting house in Topsfield next teusday Come fourtnight at two of ye Clock in the afternoon which will be the Seventh day of November next:

1st: To alow bills of Charge

2^{ly} To See if ye town will Pass a vote for the preventing of any Peson Coming into town to be a Town Charge

Topsfield Octobe^{r} ye 23: 1721 Tho: Baker
in ye name of the Select
Joseph Robinson Constable men of Topsfield

Att a Legal meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield on ye 7th of November 1721

the Town alowed to Capt How 2 shillings for perambulating with Wenham

The Town alowed to Jacob Perkins 16 shillings for mending ye meeting house glass this year voted 00–16–00

the Town alowed Nat^{l} Capen 9^{s}–6^{d} for work iron and oyl & Spanish Brown to fit up the meeting house vein voted 00–9–06

the Town alowed to William Averill 18 shillings for sweping ye meeting house voted 18–00

the Town alowed to Qu: master Ephraim Wilds & Amos Dorman for perambulating with Salem Last Spring voted 00–04–00

the Town alowed to Elisha Perkins & Daniel Clark for going to Perambulate with Boxford this year voted 00–04–00

ye Town alowed to Thomas gould & Ivory Hovey 4 shillings for Perambulating with Ipswich this year voted 00–04–00

The Town alowed to Jacob Town & John Curtis one shilling & six pence to each for perambulating with Wenham voted 00–03–00

the town alowed to m^{r} Capen Eighty pound in Passable money for his work in the ministry this year voted 80–00–00

the Town gave the Selectmen power to alow Capt Tobijah Perkins his Lawful Demands for serving ye town at the general Court this year voted

Ipswich November ye 6th 1721

Wee the subscribers being appointed by ye Town of Ipswich & Topsfield to perambulate ye Line between said towns have accordingly met & perambulated [228] the Line & renewed the marks & bounds between said Towns by throwing Each of us a stone at ye siveral trees on ye sd bounds Which Wee find to be agreeable to & exact with the antient bound formerly settled as Witness our hands

Thos gould — Nat^l Hart
Ivory Hovey — John Kimball

Entred P Jacob Peabody Town Cler

Recevid of m^r Jesse Dorman as Constable for Topsfield for ye year 1720 ye full of what was Committed to him to Collect for my use & for ye year aforesaid I say Received ye full as afores: d this 16th Jan^ry: 1721-2 per me

Joseph Capen

A true Copy: Entered by Order of Selectmen
Jacob Peabody Town Clr

Boston May 24th 1720.

Rec:d of mr Simon Bradstreet constable of Topsfield P m^r Tobijah Perkins Fourteen pounds, six shillings and six pence in full For my ffather Jer Allen Treasurer

P Ja^s Allen

£ 14–6–0

Rec:d of m^r Simon Bradstreet late Constable of Topsfield the sum of two pounds ten shillings and six pence which with other Receipts is in full of all that was due to me as Town Treasurer

I say Rec:d this 23^d day of Novem^r 1721 per me

John Gould Town Treas^r

the two Copies Last Entred are true Copies attest Ja Peabody Town Cler

To Mr Joseph Robinson Constable of Topsfield greeting &c you are hereby Required in his Majesis Name: forthwith to warn the freeholders and other inhabitance of Topsfield, on ye north side of ye River; Qualified as ye Law Directs for Voting in the perticulers hereafter named to meet at ye meeting house in Topsfield on ye first Tuseday of march

next after the date hereof at Eight of the Clock in the morning on sd day

1st to Choose Town officers as the Law Directs

2ly to Chuse Men to reckon with Mr Ephraim Willds and Mr Daniel Clark they having money in their hands to be Disposed of by the Town.

3ly to Choose a County Treasurer. 4thly to see if the Town will agree that the Proprietors shall Divide all the undivided Common Land in Topsf^{d} according to the rule they have already Voted to Divide by: with this addition; viz with adding Poll money, for one Poll to Each freehold according as they have paid to them Rats which the proprietors agreed to Divid by

Dat: Topsfield ffeb: 19th 1721-2

Amos Dorman
Thomas Gould
Ivory Hovey
Thomas Baker
} Selectmen of Topsf:d

Essex Topsfield march 6th 1721-2

By Vertue of this warrant I have warned the Inhabitance of Topsfield on the north side of ye river to meet according to time & place within mentioned

Joseph Robinson Constable

[229] At a Lawfull and annual Town meeting of Inhabitants of Topsfield being Leagally warned and convened together on March ye 6: 1721-2

Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for said meeting voted

Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for ye year Ensuing and sworn voted

Thomas Dwinel and David Baultch are Chosen Constables for ye year Ensuing voted

Serg^{t} Jno Howlett mr Isaac Peabody Lieu^{t} Tho Baker Jno Nichols and Qu:master Ephraim Willds are Chosen Selectmen for the year Ensuing voted

Serg^{t} Ivory Hovey Capt Thos Robinson and Timothy Perkins Senr are chosen tythingmen for the year Ensuing voted

Serg^{t} Amos Dorman is Chosen Sealer of Leather for ye year Ensuing voted

Tobijah Perkins Jacob Estey Eben^{r} Nicholls and mr Simon Bradstreet are Chosen Sirveyors of highways for the year Ensuing voted

Samuel Howlet Jacob Dorman and Jno Curtis are Chosen fence viewers for the year Ensuing voted

the Town agreed that ye Proprietors shall divide all ye undivided Common Land in Topsfield: according to the Rules, that the s:d proprietors have already agreed to divide by voted

Jesse Dorman and Joseph Andrew are Chosen hogreeves for ye year Ensuing voted

the Town agreed that the present Selectmen shall Reckon with Mr Ephraim Willds and mr Daniel Clark: and Receive the towns money: they have in their hands for the Towns Use voted

Serg^{t} John Howlett and Nathl Borman are Chosen to serve on the Jury of Tryals and Tho: gould is Chosen to serve on ye grand Jury at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

Jno Curtis is Chosen Schoolmaster and accepted for the year Ensuing voted

Lastly the Town agreed to give John Curtis one pound for being Schoolmaster the year ensuing voted

The above named Selectmen, Constables, Tythingmen, Sealler of Leather and Surveyers of highway, fence viewers, and Hogreeves did all take the oath belonging to their Respective offices before the Selectmen and Town Clerk on ye sixth day & on ye nineth day of march. 1721-2

Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of Topsfield such as are Leagally Quallified for Voting are hereby Notified and warned to meet here at ye meeting house in Topsfield on friday next at three of the Clock in ye Afternoon which will be the Twenty third day of this Instant: To see if the Town will give Liberty for swine to go at Large according as the Law gives Liberty

Tops:^{d} March ye 16: 1721-2

David Baltch } of Topsfield
Constable }

Isaac Peabody
Ephraim Willds
John Howlett
Tho Baker
} Selectmen of Topsfield

At a Lawful town meeting in topsfield march 23: 1721-2
The town gave Liberty for swine to go at Large within the bounds of Topsfield for ye year following according as the Law gives Liberty voted

[230] The freeholders and other inhabitance of this Town such as are Leagally Quallified according to Law for voting: are hereby Notified & warned to meet here at the meeting house in Topsfield on fryday next at two of ye Clock in the afternoon, which will be the Eleventh Day of this Instant m^o

1 To Choose a Representative: to serve for: & represent This Town in a great and generall Court: in Boston: 2^ly To Choose three good and Lawfull Men One to Serve on the grandiury and two on the Jury of Tryals at ye next Superior Court of Judicature to be holden at Ipswich for ye Court of Essex Tops:^d May ye 4: 1722 Thomas Baker
by order of the Selectmen of
David Balch Constable of Topsfield Topsfield

At a Leagall Town meeting in Topsfield on May 11th 1722.
Capt John How was Chose moderator for sd meeting voted
Mr Daniel Clark is Chosen to represent the Town at the general Court the next sessions voted
Qu: master Ephraim Willds is Chosen to Serve on the grand Jury voted and Jacob Dorman & Jacob Robinson are Chosen to Serve on the Jury of Trials at the Next Superiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield September: 14th 1722 Jacob Estey & Joseph Knight are Chosen to serve on the Jury of Tryals at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery voted

Boston June 7th 1722
Rec^d of m^r Michaell Dwinell Const^a of Topsfield P m^r Daniel Clark Nine Pounds seven shill:s & Eleven pence in full
ffor my ffather Jer Allen Treasu^r
P Ja^s Allen

Rec^{d} of Michael Dwinell Constable for Topsf^{d} three pound four shillings six pence for the County Rate by me John Appleton July 5th 1722

Topsf^{d} March ye 6 1721 or 2

Then Rec^{d} of m^{r} Michael Dwinell Constable for topsfi^{d} the sum of two Pounds five Shillings I say Rec^{d} by me for my ffather m^{r} Tobijah Perkins

by order of the Selectmen Tobijah Perkins Junr

The three receipts Last Entered are true Copies attest

Ja: Peabody Town Cle:

The freeholders and other inhabitants of this Town such as are Leagally Quallified according to Law for voting are hereby Notified & warned to Meet here at ye meeting house in Topsf^{d} on ye next Tuseday Comfortnight at twelve of ye Clock on sd day: which will be the Sixteenth Day of October next Ensuing ye date hereof: first to allow Bills of Charge

2ly to see if ye town will add nine pound to m^{r} Capens Sallary as formerly

3ly To see if ye Town will accept & confirm by a vote the Proprietors Divisions of the Common Lands in Topsfield

4ly as also To Confirm the Exchange of the Parsonage.

Topsf^{d} September ye 28: 1722 David Balch Constable of Topsfield Tomas Baker by: Order of ye Selectmen of Topsfield.

[231] Examined and Entred by me Jacob Peaboby Town Clerk for Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield being Leagally warned and convened together on ye 16th of October 1722

Dec Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for the meeting voted

the town Allowed to Capt Tobijah Perkins four pound for serving at ye general Court voted

the town Allowed seven shillings to Mary Averill, widow of William Averill Deceased for his sweeping the meeting house about four months before he died voted 00 07 00

the town Allowed to Samuel Howlet seven shillings for sweeping the meeting [house] from ye fifteenth of July till

this time—and two shillings & six pence for mending ye Lock of the meeting house Door & for mending the hinges of ye Pound gate voted 0 9 6

the town Allowed Nine pound to add to m^r Capens sallary to make the Whole Sum Eighty pounds for this year voted

The Town allowed two shillings to Thomas gould which sd gould paid to Mr Capen for Isaac Comings Jn^r of Ipswich he being rated so much and refusing to pay it voted 0 2 0

The Town did accept of and confirm by a vote the Proprietors Devisions of the Common Lands in Topsfield together with ye sale of ye Land made by the Proprietors Committee for the defraying of the Charges of sd Divisions, that so the Purchassors, and Each Proprietor, May hence forth and forever, hereafter injoy their Lotts; of sd Sale, & Divisions; according to the butts, and bounds thereof: Made by the Proprietors Committe, to each Proprietor, & purchassor, according to the return of the Proprietors Committe in the Proprietors Book of Records in Topsfield voted

Daniel Clark William Town Jacob Town Joseph Town & Edmond Town and Joshua Town & Amos Dorman & Thomas Dwinel all Entred their Contrary Decents, to ye Last Vote above Entered

The Town accepted & confirmed by a vote. the Exchange of the Parsonage Lands in Topsfield according to the bounds thereof as it is returned in ye Proprietors Book of Records in Topsfield voted

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield Duly Quallified for voting are hereby Notified to meet here at ye meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday next it being ye Eleventh Day of this Instant Decem^br at one of the Clock in the after noon

To see what ye Town will see cause to Do or how to Dispose of the interest of the Loan money of said Town: Which is now in the Trustees hands

To allow Bills of Charge also to act upon anything that ye town shall then see cause

Topsf^d Decem^r ye 8th 1722

David Balch Constable of Topsfield Thomas Baker P order & in ye name of ye Selectmen of Topsf^d
A true Copy attest Ja:^b Peabody T Clerk

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield: Decem:^r ye 11th: 1722
Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen moderator for sd meeting voted

The Town agreed that ye Last years interest of the Towns Loan money shall go to pay the Towns Debts voted
The town allowed to Lieu^t Joseph gould for fetching ye Towns money from Boston in the year 1721 ten shillings voted 00 10 00

The Town allowed two shillings six pence to m^r Elisha Perkins for the Iron Staples and bolt which is in the meeting house Door voted 00 02 06
[232] Wee the Subscribers being Desired by the Neighbours of Mr John Nickols to Lay Out and turn ye highway as it goes up Mr John Nickols hill, and both Parties with the Selectmen, have agreed as followeth: Beginning at a white oak tree about four Rods from the Bridge, so from ye white oak tree, two rods sowwest and so from ye East Side of the old Road two Rods sowwest: so as the Road runs to a Rock by ye road sowwest. So running on a strait Line on that corse to a Rock about one pole from A great flat Rock on ye south side of ye way and from that Rock two pole East

Ephraim Willds
Thomas Baker
John Howlett

Tops:^ld June ye 27th 1722
A True Copy of the return attest
Ja^cb Peabody Town Clerk

At a Lawfull Town meeting of ye Inhabitance of the Town of Topsfield on ye 2^d Day of Jany 1722-3
The Town allowed to ye Revered Mr Joseph Capen three shillings per week for keeping ye widow Mary Averill from the fifteenth Day of July Last till this present time voted
The ffreeholders and other Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsf:d Duly Quallified as ye Law Directs for voting: are hereby notified & warned to meet here at ye meeting house in Topsfield: on ye first Tuseday In March next Ensuing, at Eight of ye Clock on said Day which will be

ye next Tuseday Come seven night. 1ly To Chuse Town officers as ye Law Directs.

2ly To Choose jurymen for Ipswich Court.

3ly To see if ye Town will agree upon any way or method: how they may make improvement of ye Parsonage Land in Topsfield or Lay Restriction that no wood be cut theiron: nor Rocks Carried off

4ly To see if ye Town will answer any Petition y^t may be offer^d at sd meeting also to act upon any other thing or things y^t may then be thought needfull

Topsfi^d ffebr^y ye 23 1722-23 — Ephraim Willds, John Howlett, Tho: Baker } Selectmen of Topsf^d

David Balch Constable of Topsfield

At A Lawfull & annual Town meeting of ye Inhabitants of Topsfield March fift 1772-3 first Dec^n John Howlett is Chosen moderator for s:d meeting voted

Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for ye year Ensuing voted

Corp^l Jacob Robinson & Benjn Knight are Chosen Constables for ye year ensuing voted

Corp^l Nath^ll Borman Dea^n Jno Howlett Thomas gould Elisha Putnam and Jacob Peabody are Chosen Selectmen for ye year Ensuing voted

John Hovey Edward Putnam & David Balch are Chosen Tythingmen for ye year ensuing voted

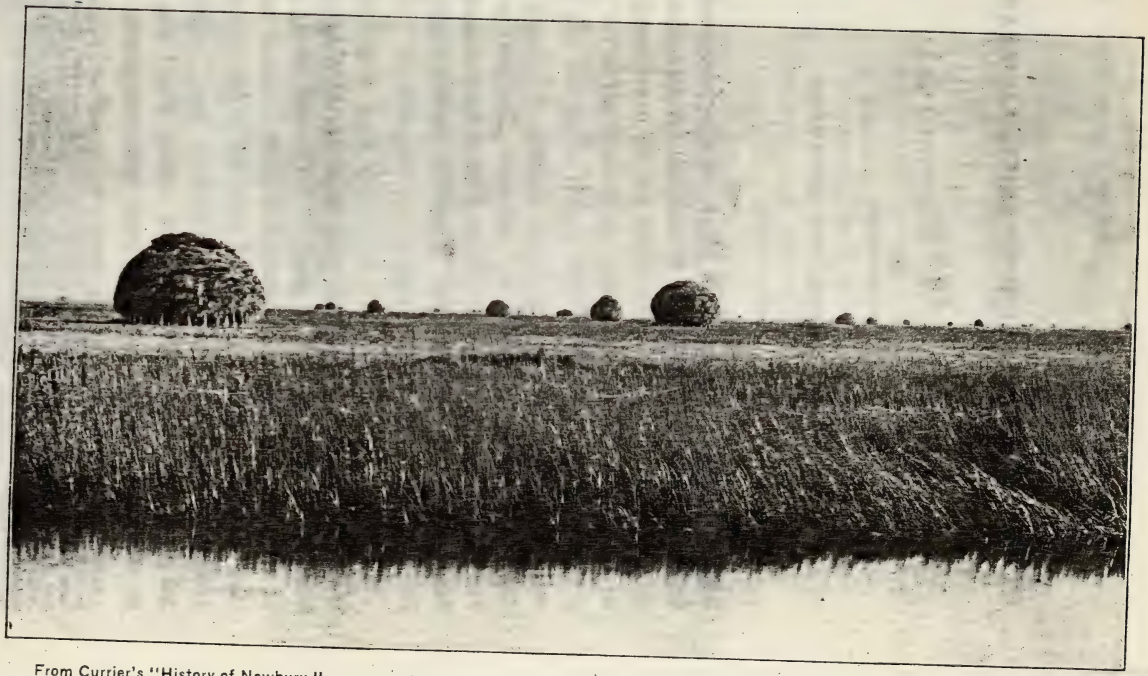
Serg^t Amos Dorman is Chosen Sealer of Leather for ye year Ensuing voted

Joseph Andrew Jacob Dorman Thos Dwinel & francis Peabody are Chosen Surveyers of highways for ye year Ensuing voted

Clerk Elisha Perkins Corp: Joseph Town & Lieu^t Tho: Baker are Chosen fence viewers for ye year Ensuing voted

[233] Serg^t Ivory hovey is Chosen to serve on ye grand jury for ye year ensuing and Benj Town & John Willds is Chosen to serve on ye jury of tryals at ye next inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

The Town agreed that no parson shall cut down any tree or trees that are growing or standing on y^e Parsonage Land in Topsfield: under y^e pennalty of y^e Law in Case of such Trespass on any proprietors Land voted



From Currier's "History of Newbury."

THE MARSHES AT NEWBURY.

THE SALT MARSHES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COAST.

BY HENRY FOLLANSBEE LONG.

In the latter part of April in the year 1614, Capt. John Smith sailed along the shores of Massachusetts Bay, and in his description of the place now known as Ipswich he relates, "On the East is an Isle of two or three leagues in length, the one halfe plaine marish ground, fit for pasture, or salt ponds,"* thereby showing a familiarity with the utility of the salt marshes of New England. Many of those who settled near Ipswich came from the east coast of England where still exist the extensive marshes and "broads" of Norfolk and Essex. The early settlers naturally brought with them the customs of Old England, and probably at the very first used the marshes for pasturing, as we learn that in their former homes across the sea some marshes were not allowed to be cut, "for it is justly supposed to be very hurtful to such valuable bullock lands," and further, "it has been observed that horses and black cattle thrive better, and flesh and fat sooner in salt marshes than in fresh water meadows or

*This refers to the Plum Island marshes lying between the Ipswich river and the Merrimac, and now having an area of about 12,500 acres. This system of marshes is perhaps the largest of any existing north of Long Island Sound, and when connected with the marine swamps lying about the Hampton river on the north, and those about the Ipswich and Essex rivers on the south, the total area, amounting in all to over 20,000 acres, is greater than any other of the northern salt marshes. A monograph by Prof. N. S. Shaler, describing these seacoast swamps, both geologically and economically, may be found in the 6th Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey (1884-5), pages 353-398.

upland pastures, though the reason of it has never been fully assigned. But according to some, it is supposed that the air of the sea whets their appetites."

But these marshes were valuable to the settlers not only for fodder, but for the long thatch which was used to cover the rude dwellings of that time, for in spite of the fact that as early as 1631, Governor Dudley forbade any man building a wooden chimney or thatching his roof, up to 1690 one-story houses were nearly all thatched. It was usual for towns to set aside certain lots lying between the salt marsh and low water mark, where thatch grew, for the purpose of supplying the roofs of the cottages, and up to the year 1660 the dwellings were largely of this sort, with catted wooden chimneys. These wooden chimneys were lined with clay, daubed to the very top, though the labor of claying the top was quite difficult. This combination of wooden chimney and thatched roof did not promise well for a community without ample fire protection, and the result was that in 1642 some towns made a law that all houses of this construction should have a ladder in readiness, in case of fire. It was not uncommon for the splinters at the top of the chimneys to catch fire and the sparks to drop on to the thatch and then of course the flames would soon destroy the house. In the Court Records appears the case of a woman servant at Ipswich accused of setting fire to one of these dwellings, and in answering the charge she said that being at home alone, and the cows having got into the corn, she took hold of the thatch to pull herself up to look around to locate them, and in doing so she upset her pipe and the thatch caught fire.

In the Colonial Laws, under date of October 17, 1649, it is recorded that, "the inhabitants of a towne wthin this iurisdiction, at their first siting downe did gen^{r}ally agree to set apart a certeine p^{r}cell of land, to the value of about 20 acres lying between the salt marsh and the low water marke, for the use of the whole towne, to be impved for thatch^{d} houses, the want whereof is very preiuditiall to the towne, since wch time this honored Genurall Co^{r}te, by an order of theirs, haue made all the lands to low water

marke to be the proprietors of the land joyning there vnto ; the aforesaid inhabitants, not being able to resolue themselues, humbly desire the resolution of this honnoured Court, wther the orde^{r} of the Court make voyd the preceding towne order. The Court doth conceive the Courts order doth not disanull the order of the towne preceding it." The result of this action is shown by Joseph B. Felt in his History of Ipswich, when he notes under date of 1668, that "the poorer sort of inhabitants having been restricted in the use of what they considered common lands, they are prevented from getting thatch to cover their houses, and to serve for fodder." Again, under date of May 19, 1669, in the Colonial Laws, we find that, "In ans^{r} to the petitions of the inhabitants of Ipswich and Gloucester exhibited to this Court in relation to Thatch Banks, etc., the court judgeth it meete to declare that notwithstanding the lawe about priuledge to low water marke one hundred rods, yet, when townes doe not grant their lands to the riuers, but otherwise bound mens lands that lye by the riuerside there, they have not liberty to clayme further right by the sayd lawe, though where no such bounds were sett, or reserves made in grants, the Court declares that the say'd lawe must take place and doeth cleerely determine the case, it remaining wth the Court to consider the lawe as they see cause."

Although the use of thatch for roofing has long since disappeared in this country, the thatching of roofs with rye and similar growths is very common in Great Britain and Europe to-day. An article in a magazine of recent date speaks of the "varied beauties of thatch" and of the "thatch encircling the little dormer windows and the beautiful curves of the roof, and the exquisite finish of the roof ridge, the most critical point of the whole." Just how the earlier settlers thatched their roofs the records fail to show, merely mentioning the value of "thatching tools." The practice in Great Britain of late years has been as follows, and probably the earlier method in this country was very much the same: the roofs of the dwellings had boards, slats, or strips of wood laid across the rafters. The thatch, after being mowed, was gathered by

hand into a bunch about six inches thick, and two or three strands of grass were taken to tie the whole bunch together. These bunches were laid along the roof just over the eaves, and were held in place with a short willow stick sharpened at both ends and stuck under the slats, then carried over the bundle of thatch and stuck under the next slat, thus holding the bundle of thatch firmly in place. These bundles of thatch were piled about six or eight bunches deep, and attached to each other by means of these willow sticks. The loose ends extending over the edge of the roof were sheared off to about four inches from the eaves, leaving just enough overlay to carry the rain water clear of the house, and yet make the roof look neat. The next bunches were not only wound tightly together in the centre, but the ends, cut even, were wound as tightly as it was possible. A long dull-pointed tool was used to make a hole in the first layer of thatch, and the tightly wound end of the next bunch was jammed into the space made by this implement. The process, from eaves to the ridgepole, was exactly the same, and similar to the present method of laying shingles. The ridge of a roof was not thatched, but a layer of sod was placed so that the ridge was covered, and also some portion of the roof near the ridge.

At first glance the salt meadows appear rather monotonous. Pale yellow and muddy brown seem to be the only noticeable tints in the straw-colored waste. But a closer scrutiny will reveal a remarkable variety of color effects. The areas of different grasses are often acres in extent, so that the tints, shading from the lightest pea green of the thinner sedges to the blue green of the rushes, and the deep emerald green of the hay grass, merge across their broad bands into perfect harmony. Some one has said that "there is no bank of violets stealing and giving half so sweet an odor to my nostrils, outraged by a winter of city smells, as the salty, spray-laden breath of the marsh. It seems fairly to line the lungs with ozone. I know how grass-fed cattle feel at the smell of salt." Our Essex County poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, must have had a somewhat similar

feeling when he wrote in his "Snow Bound" of the marshes, with the very breath of the marsh in every line.

> "Where Salisbury's level marshes spread
> Mile wide as flies the laden bee;
> Where merry mowers, hale and strong,
> Swept, scythe on scythe, their swaths along
> The low green prairies of the sea."

And is there in Massachusetts a landscape or a touch of Nature's hand that carries the mind so far toward the creative period of the earth as to stand in the midst of the salt marsh when the flush of twilight steals over its straw-colored desolation. It is as if our eyes opened for the first time upon the struggle of darkness with light; as if chaos ruled again and the drama of evolution had to be created anew, for the salt meadows, with their lagoons and pools of standing water, are the last remnants of the sea which once covered them entirely.

September 23 and 26, 1661, all the marsh land in Newbury, bordering on Plum Island river, was divided among the freeholders of the town. The first division extended from Rowley bounds to Sandy beach, "in lots of four acres each . . . and the second division . . . from four to ten acres each, . . . beginning at the upland next Merrimack Barre and extending to Sandy Beach, . . . also the marsh land in the neck over the Great River . . . of five acres each."

In Gage's History of Rowley, under date of 1667, we read that "Hog Island marshes were divided and laid out to the following persons . . . The Hog Islands were reserved for the use of the Indians for planting, etc.; other Salt marshes had been previously divided."

In the year 1665 there was a division made of 800 acres of marsh and upland in Ipswich, beginning at the end of Plum Island toward Rowley. In the same year lots were assigned on Castle Neck and Wigwam Hill. This included only a portion of the marshes, and it may be that the marshes elsewhere were included in the upland grants near by.

In the very early days the settlers went to marsh on

horseback, loading the tools and food on the horse's back as well. When two or three went it was customary for them to take turns in riding the animal. One would ride ahead for a distance and tie the horse and continue on foot. The next man reaching the horse would ride on a distance beyond where the first was walking and hitch as before, and so continue on foot. As the early roads or trails were almost impassable for the rude carts they had in those days, it is more than likely they brought the hay home in winter on sleds. At a later date, when the two-wheel chaise came into use, the custom of going to marsh was similar, save that the tools were loaded into the chaise with two men, and they drove the horse some distance, and after tying, proceeded on foot. Tradition says that this custom was very common in Topsfield, and that it was usual for the first hitch to be made at Gravelly Brook, the town line between Topsfield and Ipswich, and then always spoken of as the "half way place." The labor on the marsh was severe, and it is told of one Topsfield farmer in those days, who arose at the hour of one and walked to the marsh with his scythe and food and other small things strapped to his shoulders, that having done a day's work and walking homeward, when he reached the last hill on his return trip, though the weather was cold, he would as quickly lie down by the roadside and sleep for the rest of the night as to go a mile farther. An elderly man has recently said that "marsh work was one way to kill a man." Yet the meeting of neighbors and the friendly rivalry between men made the work on the marsh a welcomed change from the daily routine on the farm.

The manner of cutting and curing the hay in those early days probably was not unlike that followed in more recent times. Owing to the long and severe New England winter, it was very necessary to be well supplied with hay for the live stock, and as sufficient English hay would be very costly, the farmers used a large amount of salt hay. Formerly the products of the salt marshes were not forgotten by the coast dwellers of Massachusetts in their annual acknowledgment of blessings bestowed by Providence, when thanks were returned upon the day which is

now one of national observance. Joseph B. Felt, in his History of Ipswich, written in 1836, says, "Large quantities of salt hay are obtained from the marshes. It is healthy for cattle and makes much saving of other fodder. The labor of obtaining it is the hardest and most perilous which our farmers have to do. It is noticeable that old records, in speaking of marshes, sometimes call them meadows." English accounts of about the same date state that "in some places the grass from salts is annually mown, and yields a short, delicate hay, that proves a very salubrious provender for sheep; but care must be taken to prevent its being carried off by the tide, for which reason it is often found necessary to bring it into the inclosures for making." It is added that these salt marshes are very "efficacious in relieving many complaints incident to cattle, and are likewise useful in furnishing a considerable range for young sheep." The higher grass was suited more for laboring horses, "but the low meadow marsh and some other of the softer descriptions of hay are, from their possessing such qualities, better suited as a fodder for milch cows and other kinds of neat cattle, as well as such horses as are not much employed in team labour."

One writer speaks of the marsh in the following words: "Instead of waste high grass, there lay around me acres and acres of the fine rich hay grass, full grown, but without a blade wider than a knitting needle or taller than my knee. It covered the marsh like a deep, thick fur, like a wonderland carpet, into whose elastic, velvety pile my feet sank, and sank, never quite feeling the floor. Here and there were patches of higher sedges, green, but of differing shades, which seemed spread upon the grass carpet like long-napped rugs."

These marshes yield an abundant growth of the coarser grasses locally known as "black grass, fox grass, branch grass, blue grass, goose grass, cove hay, salt hay mixture and flat sedge." These hays have been subjected to a chemical analysis by the Massachusetts Hatch Experiment Station, and their digestibility determined by the aid of sheep, and it was found that "salt marsh hays differ but

little in chemical composition from average meadow hay." Salt hay cut when in blossom and well cured, contains rather less digestible matter than the average English hay cut under similar conditions, "and has from 10 to 18 per cent. less feeding value than average English hay." When fed in combination with grain and corn silage, which is the general method of feeding, "the salt hay rations produce from 2 to 5 per cent. less milk and butter than an equal amount of English hay similarly combined."

In 1835, salt hay sold at auction in Topsfield at $12.50 per ton, but at earlier dates the price was no higher than five or six dollars. Previous to 1850 the Topsfield farmers cut annually about six hundred tons of salt grass. The town is located about ten miles from the marsh lands. The total amount of salt grass cut at that time by the farmers living within convenient hauling distance of the marshes must have been very large.

A marsh to produce good hay and to be in good condition to cut must be well drained, and these drainage ditches, cut with turf spades, are a source of constant danger to people unfamiliar with the marshes, and many a gunner or green marsh hand can relate a personal experience of having slipped into one of these narrow ditches three or four feet deep. Practically no care is given to the marshes beyond keeping open these ditches which serve to drain the tide water. In the old days, a marsh that was well drained and well situated was valued at upwards of $70 an acre; at the present time it is hard to give a marsh away, and the towns will not even try to sell them for the taxes. In some places, however, large areas are now purchased for gunning purposes by clubs and wealthy individuals. The soil on these marshes is exceptionally good and runs to the depth of 30 or 40 feet. In addition to the ditches, the marshes are a regular network of natural creeks which are filled with water at high tide.

It is safe to say that every farmer within convenient hauling distance has at some time owned a piece of salt marsh, and although the cutting of it was by far the most laborious of all his work, it was also the only labor that he looked forward to with any degree of enthusiasm.

Some of these marshes have been in one family for upwards of 125 years and have been cut every year.

About thirty years ago considerable research and investigation was made by the United States government in connection with a plan for diking these marshes, somewhat as has been done in the maritime provinces, and thereby reclaiming land which would be very valuable. The chief obstacle that prevented the successful carrying out of this project was the fact that the ownership of these marshes had been divided and sub-divided many times, and in consequence it was practically impossible to get any considerable number of owners to agree upon any proposition of improvement entailing expense. Private enterprise, however, has diked some of the marshes at a cost of about $5 an acre, and it has proved a wise investment. The roadbed of the Eastern Railroad, when built, formed an excellent dike, and to-day rich hay fields along the New Hampshire shore were once wide open marshes.

The rivalry among the young men in the old days as to physical ability was as keen as at present, but lacking the out-of-door games of to-day, they had the salt marsh, where all questions as to muscular ability were settled. The rivalry also was just as intense among the older men, for to be known as a powerful mower on the marsh was an honor indeed. The young men would often practice mowing some weeks before marshing began, to get their hand in, and also to try out the different scythes, that they might be sure of every advantage they could obtain by choice of implements.

The first step a farmer must take before mowing his salt marsh was to find out the exact time for a low run of tides. During the high course of tides the marshes were covered with six or eight inches of water at least, for six hours of the day and often longer. When the low tides came, the marshes were free of water for ten days to two weeks during the entire day. The grass must be cut and dried for two or three days before it was stacked or carried from the marshes on long poles, for the salt water would spoil the mowed grass if it did not carry it away on the tide. In the very early days certain men in the com-

munity knew enough about the position of the moon with relation to the earth as to be able to tell some time in advance when the tides would be favorable, but the majority of farmers have used the almanacs for many years. Having set his date for cutting, the farmer began to get his crew together. In this he had but little difficulty as help could always be obtained for marshing, for though the work was hard, there was lots of fun and plenty to eat and drink. These men could be hired for one dollar a day and board. In many cases a community of farmers would help each other. The farmer's wife had to bear the labor of the next step in marshing, which was to prepare two or three days food for eight or ten hungry men. Though many farmers went to marsh a day at a time and of course in some cases the day trip would last for twenty-four hours, yet many others would go for a stop of two or three days, sleeping in the barns near the marsh.

From the fact that the neighbors often helped each other in cutting hay, the "wimen folks" always gave the best the house afforded, for there was considerable rivalry then as now, and one house-wife was not to be out-done by a neighbor, so in consequence she worked, fretted and schemed, to have something better and different than any other woman, and the men reaped what she sowed. The farmer, however, had to prepare sufficient drink for his crew, and this usually consisted of plenty of rum and hard cider, though some brandy was taken. In some cases a farmer carried nothing but sweetened water, but these instances were spoken of with a groan or with contempt. One man who always insisted on carrying sweetened water was called "Molasses Jack" for years on account of the following incident. The day before going to the marsh he had carefully mixed a lot of this sweetened water in a ten gallon keg and had put it in the cellar to cool. That night, about twelve o'clock, he went into the cellar for the keg, and as it was dark he had difficulty in locating it, but finally seized a ten gallon keg and loaded it into his wagon. His marsh was located about a mile from the shore, and it was with considerable trouble that his crew finally got the keg out to the lot. No sooner was the

keg set up than all hands wanted to quench their thirst. Imagine their feelings when instead of sweetened water, molasses came from the keg.

The call of the marsh was strong and the farmers looked forward to marshing as they would to a picnic. I have been told by an old marsh man that the most impressive thing he ever saw at the marsh and one which he has remembered the longest happened when as a young man he was sleeping in a hay barn near the marsh with two or three other gangs besides his own. During the early morning hours, he was awakened by voices, and rolled off the hay to locate them. The rain was falling fast, and it was pitchy black. In the middle of the barn floor, seated around a lantern, were three old men all over 75 years of age. They were telling each other old marsh yarns, and many of them were personal experiences, happening from the time when they first went to marsh nearly seventy years before.

The night before the crew was to cut hay, bed was sought early for by midnight breakfast was enjoyed and by one o'clock they were well on the way to marsh. As mile after mile was covered they were joined by other crews, for all the farmers had to take advantage of the same low run of tides. It is said that when within two miles of Ipswich it was no uncommon sight to have a dozen teams in line, and when the party turned into the narrow road leading to the marshes, fully twenty or twenty-five teams would be together moving in single file like some great caravan. The marsh side reached the teams began to separate and immediately the horses were unhitched and tied and soon the shadowy forms of men were seen winding into the marsh. Many jests were hurled at rival gangs, for it was the first leg in the battle to get on to the marsh first. Those cutting shore marshes would enjoy another breakfast while the others worked. In some cases the crews walked one or two miles over the marsh before beginning work and when we realize that all the tools, food and drink had to be carried as well, it was a day's work in itself. Since the invention of marsh shoes, horses have been used for all severe labor of this nature.

It was usual for the men to have some little argument as to what part of the "kit" each should carry on to the marsh, for some things were harder to carry than others. It is related of one man, who chose to carry the scythes, that he picked a job that lasted him considerably longer than any other. He had been to marsh but once before and then noticed that the man who carried the scythes seemed to have an easy time, but this time he did not know that a different kind of marsh was to be cut. When a marsh is left uncut for a year, the old grass remains standing, and the new grass comes up inside the old stalk, which forms a shell for the new. The new grass ripens and when ready to mow, of course it is as hard as any salt grass, but in addition it has the old grass protecting it so the labor of cutting is just twice as hard. When a marsh in this condition is cut, it is necessary for a man to have six or seven scythes and in this case the man who selected the job of carrying the scythes had about forty to carry on to the lot.

All plans were laid to be ready to begin mowing just as soon as the grass could be seen, and by three nearly the whole marsh would be in swing and for two miles could be seen many men mowing. The work of cutting would go steadily on for five or six hours or until the dew had dried off the grass. All grass mows more easily while wet and especially salt grass. It has been proven that the only salt in salt grass is what forms on the outside.* So long as the dew was on the marsh, the grass was in a condition to cut, but as soon as the dew disappeared the salt crystallized on the outside and scythes were dulled very quickly. In some cases the salt would fill the air like dust and the blades of the scythes would be solidly caked with it. Today, when mowing machines can be used the drier the salt grass the better, for it stands up stiff and is cut more easily by the machine. To sharpen these scythes, one farmer used to carry a grind stone on to the marsh as he had a shore marsh. Every few rods the mowers would stop to put a better edge on their scythes, which is called "whetting," and is done by means of a

*The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has reported that a ton of marsh hay contains about 54 lbs. of salt.

sanded stick called a "rifle." In olden days, every farmer made his own rifles. He would whittle a stick into the shape he wished, then rub tallow on it, and then sprinkle over it a fine sand. When this wore off, all that was needed was more grease and sand. Today these rifles are made of emery and are sold for a small sum at the general stores. Nearly all the old grocery stores sold rifle sand. They also sold rum, and in consequence many worthy deacons found it convenient to ask for two gallons of rifle sand when in reality they wanted something quite different.

All the mowers had their favorite scythes, but a short straight scythe was generally used as the salt grass is very wiry and therefore it is necessary to strike it hard and to keep the force to the end of the swarth. The average scythe was about 3 feet and 6 or 7 inches long. The rivalry in cutting largely centred in preventing the man ahead from cutting your corner, that is, not to let him cut what would naturally be your last stroke. A man who was beaten in this manner was obliged to stand lots of joking. A man who carried a short swarth was said to cut a "hog trough." The average good mower must cut a ten foot swarth and keep it up for five or six hours, though a few men could cut nearly a twelve foot swarth. By working ten hours a day a smart man could cut about four acres. As the marsh floor is thick with grass, all the tools, when not in use, were stuck into the mud so they could easily be found, for when placed on the ground they were easily overlooked in the brown fur-like grass that enveloped them. The tires of the wagons and machines used for marsh purposes today are about seven inches wide and hardly any grass is now cut by hand for the cost of making salt hay is relatively much greater and its intrinsic value for feeding is rated much lower than in the old times. In consequence the value of the marshes has materially decreased. In the old days every spear of grass was carefully gathered, today only the grass easily reached with the machines is cut.

No one who has traveled along the shores of New England can fail to have noticed the numerous hive-shaped stacks of hay thickly scattered over the extensive marshes. The former method of getting the hay into stacks was

vastly different from that in use today. The small creeks into which the marsh lots slope are called "dwindlings," and all the grass growing on these slopes was carefully cut. After the mower, usually followed a boy with a rake to gather the grass with the rest on the higher places. Salt marsh hay when cut drops exactly where it stands while upland hay is carried on the scythe making a line called a "windrow." The salt grass was raked into a "windrow" for drying or curing. Today, a long plank or pole called a "scoop" drawn by horses and having a plank for a man to stand on, drags all the hay at once to the stack and no care is taken to get any hay other than what the "scoop" may gather up easily.

One man told the writer that as a boy he was anxious to go to marsh and so offered his services for his food. He worked hard all day raking out the "dwindlings," and though he enjoyed the food he was very sorry he went, as it was several days before he was rested from the hard work. When the next year came around and all the other boys were going to marsh, he had the same old fever come over him and so offered his services on the same basis as the year before. Imagine his surprise when he heard from the farmer that the year before he didn't think the boy earned his board and so he guessed he didn't want him again.

After the hay was mowed it must dry for two or three days. Some grasses took longer to dry than others and of course the weather made a great difference. After the hay had been "turned" a few times and well dried, the process of stacking began. These stacks were built on stakes which were driven into the ground sometimes many feet, and were called "staddles." The "staddles" were about three feet above the marsh or high enough to clear the high tides and would hold about three tons of hay. Of course the highest place on the marsh was selected for the stack and in many cases the marsh was so low that the hay was stacked on shore. The marsh soil is peculiar in the fact that it preserves the wood used for "staddles," and some of these old "staddles" have been found that must have been in the soil nearly a hundred years. After the

dry hay was raked into bundles, two poles were run under them, and then two men carried the hay to the stack and placed it convenient for the experienced stack builder to spread as he wished. After the stack was made, rocks or sticks were laid over the top to hold the hay so that the wind would not carry it away. A great deal of fun was had when this poling was going on. When the hay was poled ashore to be stacked, long distances often were covered, and the trip would take the men by the little salt ponds or "soup holes," which cover the marsh, and sometimes the temptation was too great for the head man to resist leading his helper waist deep into these mud holes and in consequence a ducking in the clear water of the creek was necessary to remove the mud. Great joy was experienced when some green man wanted a ride on the load, for then both men poling enjoyed the fun of dumping their passenger into a salt pond. These stacks of hay remained until the marshes were frozen over in the winter when the farmer hauled the hay home by means of sleds. Severe storms, causing a high run of tides, have not infrequently carried all the stacks of hay away, and the farmer's work was entirely lost. Many a marsh hand and gunner has been marooned all night on one of these stacks when caught by the rising tide.

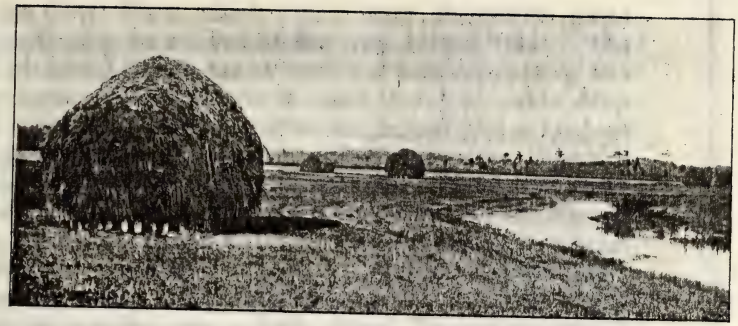
After the day's work was finished it was customary to race the horses home. The story is told of one man who was racing and leading the others, that the tire of his wheel came off. He paid no attention whatever to it but kept up his speed. In a short distance the rim of the wheel came off and it is said that he finished victorious with nothing left of the wheel but a few spokes.

The "thatch" or coarser grass used by our first settlers for roofs, is covered by the tides every day and was very generally used for fodder, some farmers considering that certain "thatch" was the best of all hays on the marshes. It was said to make the cows drink more water which was considered beneficial. All this grass had to be gathered at low water and flat hay-boats called "gundelows" or "gondolas", were used to carry it to the shore. This side of marsh work was the most dangerous of all and was

called "green freighting" from the fact that the thatch was gathered green and cured on shore. Many farmers when "green freighting" drove their oxen to the landing, that they might bring home the hay to cure. It was no unusual sight to see at one time thirty or forty yokes of oxen hitched at the Rowley Landing, waiting for the freighters to come up on the tide. The thatch cutters must go with the tide regardless of the time, day or night, for they always quoted that "the tide waits for no man." Some of the wiser farmers would engage their boats ahead and have them anchored down the stream toward the tide so that they might get away earlier and thereby have more time on the lot.

Many of the Topsfield people tell of drowning accidents which occurred while using these hay-boats some of which are mentioned in records as far back as the year 1700. The average hay-boat was about twenty-five feet in length, with a depth of about three feet running nearly the entire length. On the front end, which was square like the rear, were seats for the rowers, three on a side, while in the rear of the boat a place was reserved for a man with a steering oar, which was a hard task and only the best of men were used for this position. The bottom of the boat was filled with hay, which also was loaded on a rigging made by means of planks extending six or eight feet on each side the boat. By piling the hay about six feet high, a load of about ten tons was obtained, though some boats carried more. In the early days many large boats came down the Merrimack River to be loaded with hay to be used by the inland farmers. These crews would bring a large tent and remain several days on the marsh, returning with their load on the tide. Before tug boats were in use to carry them beyond the influence of the tides, the hay-boat would go up the river until the tide turned, when they would "tie up" on the bank and wait for the next tide. But some of them used large sails and kept going, "tide or no tide." These boats were forty or fifty feet long, and would carry about thirty tons of hay.

Cross' Banks was a favorite cutting place for the Topsfield people, although many had lots on Plum Island and



From Currier's "Ould Newbury."

PLUM ISLAND RIVER AND MARSHES.

LOAD OF SALT HAY DRAWN BY OXEN.

also the Great Flats, which was a very dangerous place and could only be worked at the very lowest tides. The hard bottomed thatch banks were the best for cutting but many farmers were obliged to mow thatch in ankle deep mud. Before the tide was low, the farmer placed his boat in a good position for loading and at the same time for getting away quickly on the flood tide. When the water had all receded the boat was high and dry on the thatch bank, but before it had all gone the mowers were swinging their long scythes through the thatch, for this grass mows very easily and a wide deep swarth could be taken. When the weather was a little damp the scythes would disturb clouds of mosquitoes and midgets from their comfortable resting places on the thatch. The poets call these insects "the nymphs of the salt marsh," but the word *imps* is too mild for a farmer to use for no rest can be obtained until a wind springs up or the tide brings relief. As fast as the grass was mowed, a raker gathered it into bundles and these in turn were poled to the boat to be piled on, a gang plank being used to get on to the boat. Very little fun was indulged in for it was a case of quick work to get the boat loaded with the tools, gang plank and fook on top, to meet the coming tide. When the boat "fleeted" or floated, the men plyed their oars and worked liked galley slaves until the landing was reached, the man behind shouting "port" or "starboard" as the case might be as the boat wound in and out through the creeks. Very few farmers owned a hay-boat, the majority hiring them for a "freight." Capt. Jewett of Ipswich owned many boats and landed them all at Green's Point, a favorite landing place for Topsfield people. Here all the oxen were hitched and it was not unusual to see fifteen or twenty yokes at one time waiting for the loads. Capt. Johnson of Rowley Landing, was another hay-boat man who was well patronized.

These hay-boats often cost as high as $300.00 and could be hired for about $2.00 a freight, or $5.00 with the skipper. Of course the owners were anxious to let their boats for every tide and the following yarn will give an idea of the care they took to have the boats ready for use. The

skipper was hired to go with his boat, to a marsh at some distance from the landing, for of course some marshes must be a long distance away and in some cases they were five miles. The farmer was anxious to obtain all the hay possible and so loaded the boat very heavily. After the tools were laid on top and the crew had taken the oars, the skipper began shouting "starboard" or "port," as the tide allowed them to go from one creek into another, in order to reach Green's River or Green's Creek, the main way to the landing. This particular boat was obliged to come down Paine's creek, which was a very difficult passage and where the boat always struck the tide both ways. The boat was run ashore many times for it seemed impossible, so heavy was the load, to keep in the middle of the creek. The skipper soon began to fret and fume about taking so much time to get back and complained bitterly of such a load. The owner of the hay however was not worried so long as he got the hay up to the landing. Another bad creek called "Pull-and-be-Damned" was a source of further loss of time, for the boat was constantly hitting the mud banks. During all this time the skipper was shouting directions from his post, for it is no uncommon thing for a man to get lost in the many creeks of the marshes and he also was swearing between orders about his chances of letting his boat for the next tide when it turned. At last his patience was exhausted and for five minutes not a sound was heard from him and the rowers wondered what was the matter. Shortly after while rounding a curve they noticed a large amount of hay floating away from them. The farmer at once stopped rowing and climbed over the stack to see if the skipper was all right, and found to his surprise that the owner of the boat instead of steering and attending to his duties as pilot, was diligently plying a fork to the pile of hay and throwing it into the creek, intending thereby to lighten the load so that better speed could be made and the landing reached in time to unload and let the boat again.

The oars used for rowing these "gundalows" were from twenty to twenty-five feet long and were very heavy. Many drowning accidents have occurred when these oars

caught on the bank or in eel grass and drew the rower into the water before he could loosen his hold on the oar. Great care had to be taken in loading the boats for they easily would take in water and sink and then only could be raised when low tide came and the plug in the bottom could be removed allowing the water to run out when the boat would float on the next tide. These boats have all disappeared and the only boat for hay in existence today is called a "canoe," and is practically two dorys held together by means of boards thereby making a foundation for the hay stack.

There was always a race to reach the landing place, for the first man in went beyond the landing to unload where it cost him nothing, while the last man would have to pay a dollar to unload at the landing, if he was fortunate enough to reach there before the tide left him stranded on the mud a rod or more from shore. In those days the land near the landing place was used for drying the hay, the farmers paying a small sum for the accommodation. But when the owners of this land realized that they were getting very little for the accommodation and at the same time were injuring their own grass land, the carting home of "green freight" became general. But this was not profitable and "green freighting" is now a thing of the past. Today many marshes are cut by machine at a very low price. The Tilton brothers of Topsfield, in 1908, cut over two hundred tons of salt hay with a mowing machine, for there is still quite a demand for salt hay for fodder, but it is used more generally in the large business houses to pack crockery, while much is also used to protect the early vegetables, as salt is a non-conductor of frost.

PETITION IN 1693 FOR RELEASE FROM MILITARY SERVICE.

The Humble petition of the Commity of Malitia of Topsfield to Sir William Phips Knight Governor and Capt. Generall in Chief of all there Majestys troops present heer in New Ingland Your pore petitioners finding them selues uary hard prest by Keeping out so many of our men being but a small plase and a scattered plase: humbly beg of your Excelency that sume of our men might draw of we have 12 men out of our town and our Company doth consist of a bout sixty men fitt for seruice we being a Town y^{t} doth liue by our Labour it is uary hard for summe to have there help out all ye Summer and can gitt no help to help them we doe understand by Information that Seuerell Towns y^{t} is far biger then ours doth not send out half so many as we doe we Lying open to ye enemie if they git ouer merimake riuer we humbly beg of your Exalency y^{t} our humble request may be heard and have your exalencys gratious answer beging your exalencys order for ye drawing of summe of our men or else power to Release them y^{t} haue been out a long time So shall y^{r} poore petitioners euer pray for y^{r} Exalency.

John Gould, Capt
Thomas Baker, Lieut
Ephraim Dorman, Ens.
Thomas Dorman, Sarg^{t}
Samuel Howlett, Clerk.

Topsfield, 5th June, 1693

Mass. Archives, Vol. 70, page 188.

NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM SALEM NEWSPAPERS

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

(*Continued from Vol. XII (1907), page 148.*)

MILITARY. Mr. Israel D. Elliot has been elected Captain of the Infantry in Topsfield, Mr. Moses Wright, Lieutenant, and Mr. Nehemiah Balch, Ensign.

Salem Gazette, May 8, 1829.

DIED. In Topsfield, on the 10th inst., Sylvanus Wildes, Esq., aged 76. He was graduated at Harvard University, in 1777. One of his ancestors was among the first settlers of the town of Topsfield, and by his mother's side, he was a descendant of Governor Simon Bradstreet.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 26, 1829.

NOTICE. The next annual term of TOPSFIELD ACADEMY commences *Wednesday*, the 23d inst. The term will be fifteen weeks.

By order of the Trustees,

JEREMIAH STONE, *Sec'y.*

Salem Gazette, Dec. 18, 1829.

COUNTY LYCEUM. In compliance with the invitation published in the papers of last week, a number of gentlemen from all parts of the County assembled at the Academy in Topsfield, on Wednesday the 30th of December, to take into consideration the expediency of establishing a County Lyceum for the County of Essex, and to concert and adopt such preliminary measures as they could agree upon.

The attendance was general; one or two of the Town Lyceums already established were represented by Delegates; and about eighty literary, and for the most part professional, public spirited individuals took their seats in the Convention.

[A three column account of the proceedings then follows, including a long speech by Judge David Cummins, a native of Topsfield. Francis Vose, preceptor of the Topsfield Academy, was a member of the committee of nine appointed to draft a circular letter to be sent throughout the county.]

Salem Gazette, Jan. 1, 1830.

The Salem Gazette of Jan. 8, 1830 prints a poem of 103 lines written in blank verse by a young lady student at the Topsfield Academy. Editorially the paper remarks, "It is very creditable to the talents of the young author, and indicates a poetic vein worth exploring."

Installation. The Rev. James P. McEwen was installed as pastor over the Congregational church and society in Topsfield, on Wednesday last. Introductory Prayer by Rev. Mr. Fitz, of Ipswich; Reading of the Scriptures by Rev. Mr. Felt, of Hamilton; Sermon by Rev. Mr. Barbour, of Byfield, from 2d Cor. 4, 3. "*But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost*"; Installing Prayer by Rev. Mr. Dennis, formerly of Topsfield; Right hand of fellowship by Rev. Mr Cowles, of Danvers; Address to the Society by Rev. Mr. Cleaveland, of Salem; Concluding Prayer by Rev. Mr. Kimball, of Ipswich; Benediction by the Pastor.

Salem Gazette, May 7, 1830.

Hon. Nehemiah Cleaveland of Topsfield, was elected President, and Thomas Perkins, Esq., of Topsfield, one of the five Vice-Presidents of the Essex County Temperance Society, at a meeting held at Ipswich, July 7, 1830.

Salem Gazette, July 9, 1830.

DIED—In Topsfield, on the 23d ult., Mr. Daniel Estey, aged 91 years, 2 months, and 8 days. He retained his reason and faculties, in a great degree, till within a short time of his decease.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 3, 1830.

Examination of Topsfield Academy. This, Mr. Editor, I attended last week, and from a sense of duty to the teachers and the public, say, I was much gratified.

The school included two departments, a male and a female, under the care of Mr. Francis Vose as Principal, assisted by Miss Ann Cofran as Preceptress. Both have had experience as

teachers, and show in the exhibition of their pupils, not only general ability and faithfulness, but the *proper* talent for teaching.

About sixty pupils were examined, being the members of the school the last term, tho' I learn from the catalogue, there have been a hundred different pupils during the past year. All were examined carefully in their respective studies, and in a way to evince they gave only a fair exhibition of their real acquisitions. They showed that the foundation of a good education was well laid, and some of the more advanced, especially of the young ladies, appeared to have successfully attended to the ornamental parts of education.

The efforts in composition were commendable, and the speaking good for youth of the same standing. The exhibition was becoming a good New England school.

I think this Academy deserving of patronage. It is pleasantly located in a healthy town, the centre of Essex County, and but twenty miles from the capital of the State. The accommodations are good, and the terms reasonable. While other schools are sustained in the vicinity, I say with assurance that none will be likely to regret the confidence reposed in this school.

A Friend of Youth.

Aug. 16, 1830. *Salem Gazette, Aug.* 27, 1830.

The Newbury, Rowley and Topsfield Battalion of Cavalry was directed to assemble with the 2d Regiment of Infantry, on Tuesday, Oct. 5th, at 9 o'clock, and be reviewed at 12 o'clock. —*Brigade orders.*

Salem Gazette, Sept. 21, 1830.

Royal A. Merriam of Marblehead (born in Topsfield), was secretary of the Essex South Congressional District Convention, which nominated Hon. Rufus Choate, at Salem, Oct. 18, 1830.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 19, 1830.

Essex Convention of Teachers. Agreeably to a notice inserted in the public Journals, about three hundred teachers and others interested in the cause of education from different parts of the County of Essex, assembled at Topsfield Academy on the 23d of June last, for the purpose of improving the present mode of instruction.

At this Convention a Committee was appointed to take into consideration the expediency of forming a County Society for

the benefit of teachers, was authorized to make the necessary arrangements, and call a future meeting.

This Committee, consisting of W. B. Dodge of Salem, C. O. Kimball of Methuen, A. Greenleaf of Salem, P. Perley of Newbury, and E. Vose of Topsfield, met at Topsfield on the first of September, and passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in view of this Committee, it is expedient, that an Association of Teachers and friends of education be formed in this County.

Resolved, That the first meeting of the Society be holden at Topsfield Academy on Friday and Saturday, next following the annual State Thanksgiving of the present year, and that there be four Lectures on the occasion.

Resolved, That the introductory Lecture be at 10 o'clock, A. M., on Friday, "On the qualifications and duties of Teachers," by Rev. D. Phelps of Haverhill.

The second, at one o'clock, P. M., "On teaching English Grammar, Reading and Composition," by N. Cleveland of Newbury.

The third, at three o'clock, P. M., "On teaching Geography," by A. Greenleaf of Salem.

The fourth, at eleven o'clock, A. M., on Saturday, "On teaching Arithmetic," by W. Colburn of Lowell.

It is proposed, that Friday evening and other parts of the time not otherwise occupied, be spent in familiar discussion on subjects connected with education. A Constitution will be presented, and other arrangements made to carry into effect the object of the Convention.

F. Vose, *Secretary.*

Topsfield, Oct. 13, 1830.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 19, 1830.

A Contribution was taken last Sabbath in the Rev. Mr. McEwen's society of Topsfield, for the benefit of the Gloucester sufferers [by fire], and the sum of $27. collected.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 22, 1830.

DIED.—In Topsfield, Wednesday morning, Thomas Perkins, Esq. in the 73d year of his age, formerly an eminent and very successful merchant of this town, and at his death possessed of an immense fortune.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 26, 1830.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The next term in this institution commences on Wednesday the 27th of April inst. Mr. Vose, Principal. Miss Coffran, Preceptress. Lessons in music by Mrs. Morland.

JAS. F. MCEWEN, *Sec'y.*

Salem Gazette, Apr. 19, 1831.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

This Association will hold its semi-annual meeting at Topsfield Academy, on the 20th and 21st inst.

On the 20th, Lectures will be given in the following order:—At 9 o'clock, A. M., by Rev. G. B. Perry, On the Construction of School Rooms. At 11 o'clock, A. M. by Rev. H. C. Wright, on First Lessons to Children. At 2 o'clock, P. M. by Rev. A. T. Kimball, How can the best moral influence be made to bear upon our common Schools, and in a special manner, through the influence of Parents and School Committees? At half past 7 P. M. by S. R. Hall, On School Disapline, On the 21st at 11 o'clock, A. M. by Rev. L. Withington. The branches of study most deserving attention in common schools.

The Board of Managers will meet at eight o'clock A. M. on the 21st, for the transaction of business.

F. VOSE, *Sec'ry.*

Topsfield, May 13, 1831.

Salem Gazette, May 13, 1831.

The Topsfield Lyceum went into operation in February last. It has held six meetings, and disposed of sixty tickets. A summary of the annual report of F. Vose of Topsfield, secretary of the Essex County Lyceum Asso. was printed in the *Education Reporter*, for Feb. 17 and Feb. 24, 1831.

Salem Gazette, May 17, 1831.

The Boston Patriot states that a Methodist Camp Meeting will be held at Topsfield, August 23d, to close 27th.

Salem Gazette, July 29, 1831.

SHERIFF'S SALE, at Topsfield Hotel, on Aug. 23rd. All the right and equity which Billy Emerson of Topsfield, yeoman, has in the following mortgaged real estate: all the lands and buildings belonging to the estate of his late father Thomas Emerson, and situate in Topsfield, Boxford, Ipswich and Hamilton, in the whole about 300 acres, with several dwelling

houses, etc., including the farm and buildings in Topsfield now occupied by said Billy Emerson; 70 acres and a dwelling house, which formerly belonged to Adam Ross, etc. etc.

Salem Gazette, July 29, 1831.

The reported postponement of the Methodist Camp Meeting at Topsfield, is incorrect. The meeting is to commence on the 23d instant, as originally proposed. The following announcement is official:

Camp Meeting at Topsfield. The public are informed that there will be a Camp Meeting at Topsfield, to commence Aug. 23, and close Aug. 27.

E. Mudge,
A. D. Sargent,
J. R. Sunderland,
R. D. Easterbrook.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 16, 1831.

Mail Regulations at Salem.

Arrivals. From Haverhill [including Topsfield], Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 6 P. M. Departures. For Haverhill [including Topsfield], Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at 7 P. M.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 26, 1831.

The Camp Meeting, at Topsfield, is said to have been thus far fully attended, several thousand people being present. The encampment is in a very pleasant situation, about half a mile beyond the Hotel, The services will terminate to-morrow.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 26, 1831.

We are requested to mention that Rev. Mr. Robinson, of Beverly, will preach in the Centre School House in Topsfield, next Sabbath —— services to commence at the usual time.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 23, 1831.

Dr. Parker presided at the Jackson Convention held at Topsfield last Wednesday, and George Wheatland and Frederick Robinson, Esq's were chosen secretaries. Joseph S. Cabot and Gayton P. Osgood, Esq's were appointed delegates to the National Convention to be held at Baltimore.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 25, 1831.

As a recent providential meeting of several ministers belonging to Essex Co. it was thought that in the present interesting state of religious feeling in most of our churches and congregations a general meeting of the pastors in the county would be a great advantage. Notice is therefore given, that a meeting of the kind contemplated will be held in Topsfield, at Mrs. Cumming's Hotel, on Monday, the 31st, at 9 o'clock A. M.

I. Richmond Barbour.

Newbury (Byfield), Oct. 10, 1831.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 25, 1831.

The Rev. Mr. Barnaby, of Danvers, will deliver the annual lectures before the Topsfield Lyceum, at the Academy Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 8th inst., to commence at 6 o'clock, Subject, "Morality."

Salem Gazette, Nov. 4, 1831.

Stage accident. On Tuesday last an accident occurred to one of the stages belonging to the line from Portsmouth to Salem, which, though not fatal, was disastrous in its consequences. The passengers has just dined at the Topsfield Hotel, and the stage had advanced a short distance towards Salem, when a dog suddenly sprang over the wall, into the road. This alarmed the horses, and the leaders wheeled round so suddenly that the coach was instantly overset, and the upper part dashed to pieces, None of the passengers were seriously injured, with the exception of an elderly lady belonging to Portsmouth, whose collar bone was fractured in two places.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 11, 1831.

The Essex County Teacher's Association will hold its Annual Meeting at Topsfield Academy on the 2d and 3d of December next.

President Greenleaf will give a lecture on the manner of conducting recitations, at eleven o'clock A. M. on the second;—W. Oaks, Esq,, Physical Education, at two o'clock P. M.;—O. Carlton, Female Education, at six o'clock P. M.—W. H. Brooks, Edcation of the Five Senses, at half past 9 o'clock A. M. on the third;—Hon. J. Vose, Duties of Parents in reference to Schools and their Children attending them, at eleven o'clock A. M.

F. Vose, *Sec'y.*

Salem Gazette, Nov. 25, 1831.

NOTICE. At a meeting of the Pastors of Evangelical Congregational and Presbyterian churches in the County of Essex, held at Topsfield, Oct. 31st, Rev. Gardiner B. Perry and Rev. Leonard Withington were appointed a Committee, to prepare a history of the revival of religion in Essex County, in 1831.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 9, 1831.

The first annual meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association was held at Topsfield on the 2d and 3d of the present month;—and notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather, was attended by about one hundred and twenty persons, an equal number of each sex, nearly all of them teachers. [In nearly a column account of the proceedings it mentions the various speakers; the reports presented; the semi-annual meeting of the association to be held in Topsfield the next May; the "Depository" of the association at Topsfield, containing about 100 copies of school books, various kinds of school apparatus, a model of an improved school house, a copy of the late census of the county, etc. "It is proposed to make the collection as extensive and valuable as is practicable, including in it copies of the several town histories, and maps, specimens in mineralogy, and the various other branches of natural history. Francis Vose of Topsfield, was chosen Secretary, and Nehemiah Cleaveland of Newbury (Byfield—born in Topsfield), one of the Counsellors.]

Salem Gazette, Dec. 13, 1831.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY. The winter term in this Institution will commence on WEDNESDAY, the 21st inst. Mr. Vose, the Principal, will have the immediate care of the whole school for the term, and will avail himself of apparatus and modern improvements in communicating instruction.

JAS. P. M'EWEN, *Sec'y.*

Salem Gazette, Dec. 20, 1831.

DEDICATION. The new Methodist Meeting House in Topsfield will be dedicated to the worship of God on Wednesday next, at 11 o'clock A. M. The building is one story high, 40 feet square and it is creditable to its founders that it has been erected without the use of ardent spirits.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 23, 1831.

The DEDICATION of the Methodist Chapel in *Topsfield* took place on Wednesday last. The introductory prayer, and sermon on the occasion were from Rev. Mr. Mudge of Ipswich; the read-

ing of select scriptures, and concluding prayer, by Rev. Mr. Fillmore of Salem. The sermon, founded on 2 Chron. 6, 18, was very appropriate to the occasion. The singing was excellent; and the services throughout were solemn and interesting. The House, which is 40 feet square, and in the modern style, was filled with attentive hearers.

The Rev. speaker, in concluding his subject, briefly noticed the rise and progress of Methodism, both in *England* and *America*. The *first* meeting-house of this denomination in the United States was built in the city of New York, sixty-three years ago, about two years after the first church was there formed. The *first* meeting-house in Massachusetts was built forty years since, at Lynn. The speaker remarked that he remembered the time when he was the only minister of his persuasion in all New England, that was raised up here, being the *first*. And it was an interesting and remarkable circumstance, that Mr. Timothy Munroe, of Lynn, who built the first Methodist meeting-house there, also built the one at *Topsfield*, and was present at the dedication. It seems that this people, like the *Hebrews* in Egypt, the more they have been *oppressed*, the more they have multiplied and increased.

AUDITOR.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 6, 1832.

From Table showing County valuations. Topsfield had in 1821, 196 polls and valuation of $341,853.33 ; in 1831, 239 polls and valuation of $361,022.08.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 24, 1832.

Mr. John Rea, of Topsfield, aged 35, committed suicide on Saturday last, by leaping into a well, with a stone weighing seventeen pounds tied to his neck. A Coroner's Inquest was held on the body yesterday by Thomas Needham, Esq. Verdict of the Jury, that "Rea came to his death by drowning himself in a well, in a fit of insanity."

Salem Gazette, Jan. 31, 1832.

A friend in Topsfield writes us, that the influenza and scarlet fever are very prevalent in that and the neighboring towns. The mortality is great amongst children.

Salem Gazette, May 8, 1832.

DIED. In Topsfield, Mrs. Abigail W. B. Kimball, wife of Mr. Benjamin Kimball, aged 24, greatly lamented by her family and

friends. In the death of Mrs. Kimball, her bereaved husband and children are left under very peculiar and trying circumstances, and have sustained a loss which themselves only can duly estimate. She sustained a short, but very distressing sickness, with that Christian fortitude and resignation which become a humble follower of Jesus Christ.

Salem Gazette, May 22, 1832.

At a meeting of the "Friends of the American System of Protection to Domestic Industry in the County of Essex," held at Topsfield Hotel on Wednesday the 30th day of May, 1832. The meeting was called to order at 11 o'clock A. M. by John W. Treadwell, Esq. of Salem, and made choice of John Choate, Esq. of Ipswich, as President, and Samuel Merrill, Esq. of Andover, as Vice-President, and Ebenezer Bradbury, and Thomas C. Foster, Secretaries.

After an explanation of the objects of the meeting, it was voted that a committee of twelve be appointed to report what subjects be necessary for the meeting to act upon and

J. W. Treadwell of Salem, Nathan Crosby of Newburyport, Benjamin Goodridge of Danvers, Jos. Farley of Ipswich, George Hodges of Andover, Edward Clark of Salisbury, Asahel Adams of Methuen, Nath'l Webster of Haverhill, Edward S. Rand and John Pearson of Newburyport, Samuel Chase of Haverhill, and William E. Hacker of Salem, were chosen.

[The Committee reported Resolutions praising the protective system, condemning the admission of foreign wool at a 20% duty as proposed by a pending bill, condemning the proposed readjustment of the tariff on the eve of a National election, and recommending that the several towns in the County at once memorialize Congress in opposition.]

Salem Gazette, June 1, 1832.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The semi-annual Meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association was held at Topsfield on the 25th and 26th of last month, and was attended by about one hundred gentlemen, most of them teachers or delegates from school committees, and by a respectable number of ladies. The school interests of all sections of the County were duly represented.

From the persons present it was ascertained that at least *five times* as many more had made preparations for coming, but were prevented by the rain.

Very valuable lectures were delivered by Oliver C. Felton of Salem, Isaac R. How of Haverhill, William Oakes of Ipswich, and Jacob Abbott of Boston. Samuel Pickard of Rowley being unable to attend, his place was supplied by Josiah Holbrook of Boston. * * * A very valuable report on school houses was read and ordered to be printed at the expense of the Association. * * * A committee was also chosen to prepare a series of tracts on subjects connected with schools. [Speaks of the co-operation of school committees in the several towns in the County; discusses the proposed change of date for holding the annual meeting.]

Valuable additions are constantly being made to the collections of books and apparatus in the Depository, and by vote of the society the members are requested to furnish fair specimens of the various minerals, &c. found in the County; with a label firmly attached, stating where, and under what circumstances each specimen was found, and by whom it is presented. [Mentions donations of various publications received, including minerals from the Boston School Lyceum.]

Salem Gazette, June 5, 1832.

The Court of County Commissioners have granted licenses in Topsfield, to one retailer, three innholders, and one common victualler. By the provisions of the new license law, innholders and victuallers are allowed to sell wine, brandy, rum, or other spirituous liquors to be consumed about their premises. Retailers may not sell liquors, either mixed or unmixed, to be drunk in or about their shops.

Salem Gazette, July 24, 1832.

On Thursday afternoon, a hailstorm passed over several towns in the interior of the County. At Topsfield, north part, the hail stones were large, and did great damage, breaking much glass, injuring vegetation, &c. One man had 60 panes of glass broken in his house.

Salem Gazette, July 24, 1832.

Topsfield Academy. The Fall Term will commence on the 5th of September. Mr. Edwin D. Sanborn continues as Principal, and will have the immediate superintendance of all the pupils of both sexes.

James F. McEwen, *Sec'y.*

Salem Gazette, Aug. 31, 1832.

The Jackson County Convention was held last week at Topsfield. *Salem Gazette, Oct.* 9, 1832.

Ordination. Mr. Daniel Peabody of Topsfield, and late of the "Theological Seminary" in Virginia, was, on Thursday last, ordained pastor of the First church and society in Lynn. * * * The Concluding Prayer was by Rev. Mr. McEwen of Topsfield. *Salem Gazette, Nov.* 20, 1832.

NOTICE.

The Essex County Teachers' Association will hold its Annual Meeting at Topsfield Academy, on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Lectures will be given as follows:—On Friday by Dr. Dana, of Newburyport, On the proper method of using the Sacred Scriptures in Schools. A. Hildreth, of Derry, On Quackery in Teaching. N. Cleaveland, of Newbury, The Best method of developing the faculties of the mind in the process of education. On Saturday by S. C. Phillips of Salem, Education as a preventive of pauperism and crime. The Delegates from the several school committees in the county are respectfully invited to attend.

F. Voss, *Sec'y.*

Haverhill, Nov. 10, 1832.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 20, 1832.

Dreadful Accident. A very interesting son of Capt. John Rea, of Topsfield, aged 10 years, was killed on Saturday last, in the following distressing manner. Capt. Rea was returning from Haverhill with a load of rails or poles, in a double horse wagon; on arriving at Carlton's hill, in Bradford, he got off from his load to lead the horses down the hill, leaving the boy to keep the reins. After descending the steepest part, he let go the horses, and stepped before them for the purpose of driving a yoke of oxen which he had purchased, leaving the guidance of the horses to his son, who was not unacquainted with driving. But by some means the horses sheered from the road; one of the wheels striking a stone, threw the boy from the wagon, and both wheels passed directly over a part of his under jaws and neck, killing him instantly.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 26, 1833.

A semi-annual meeting of the *Essex County Teachers' Association* will be held at Topsfield on Friday and Saturday, the 24th and 25th of the present month, when the following lectures may be expected—

On Friday, at 10 o'clock, A. M., by Oliver Carlton, of Marblehead, on Teaching English Grammar.

At 11 A. M., by Samuel Lawson, of Andover, on Public Examinations of Schools.

At 2 P. M., by David P. Page, of Newburyport, on The Proper arrangement of Studies and School Exercises.

The meeting will close on Saturday with a Lecture commencing at 11 A. M., by Lowell Mason, of Boston, Professor to the Boston Academy of Music, on the Pestalozzian and German System of teaching Music to Children.

The time unoccupied by the above exercises will be spent in attending to other Lectures, and in the discussions of practical utility.

It is hoped that the Delegates from the several School Committees in the County, and the friends of education generally, will give a full and prompt attendance. Per order

Alfred Greenleaf,
Corr. Secr'y.

Salem, May 17, 1833.

Salem Gazette, May 17, 1833.

The following persons in Topsfield were licensed at the April Term of the Court of County Commissioners, as Innholders, Retailers, and Common Victuallers, or sellers of Wine, Beer, Ale, Cider, or fermented liquors.

Innholders—John Rea, Jacob Towne, 3d,—without ardent spirits, Susanna Cummings and Frederick Perley.

Seller of Wine, Beer, &c.—Frederick Perley.

Retailer—Samuel Gould.

Salem Gazette, May 21, 1833.

An audience of about three hundred persons assembled from nearly all the towns in the County at the semi-annual meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association, held in Topsfield on the 25th and 26th of May. * * *

Mr. Mason's lecture on teaching music to children was delivered in the meeting-house. He was attended by a select Juvenile choir from Boston. Standing in front of the pulpit he gave to the audience, by means of a black board, an outline of the method of teaching. * * * [This article is half a column in length.]

Salem Gazette, June 21, 1833.

Nehemiah Cleaveland of Topsfield was President of the Essex County Temperance Society in June, 1833; he also was postmaster at Topsfield at the same time.

Salem Gazette, July 5, 1833.

Mr. Elisha L. Cleaveland, of Topsfield, will be ordained tomorrow over the Third Church and Society in New Haven, Conn. Sermon by Rev. Mr. Cleaveland of Salem.

Salem Gazette, July 23, 1833.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY. The Fall Term in this Institution will commence on WEDNESDAY, the fourth day of September next, for the instruction of pupils of both sexes. Mr. Asa Fowler has been engaged as Preceptor, who is highly recommended, and particularly by Doctor Lord, President of Dartmouth College, * * *

JAS. F. MCEWEN,
Secretary.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 20, 1833.

The annual inspection and review of the second regiment (Ipswich, Essex, Hamilton, part of Rowley, and Topsfield), will be held on Oct. 3rd.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 17, 1833.

The fourth Annual Meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association will be holden at Topsfield on Friday and Saturday, the 29th and 30th of the present month. [Lectures were announced by David Choate of Essex; Dr. Daniel Dana of Newburyport; James Worster of Boston; George W. Greene of Providence; A. R. Baker of Andover; and Dr. A. L. Peirson of Salem.]

Salem Gazette, Nov. 22, 1833.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The fourth annual meeting was held at Topsfield on the 29th and 30th of November last, as heretofore announced. * * * The weather was unusually severe and prevented many of the most devoted friends of the Association from being present. * * * The Depository of the Association at Topsfield, under the care of Dr. R. A. Merriam, being regularly furnished with copies of school books, by most of the principal publishers and authors in New England, as well as articles of apparatus, and with pamphlets and periodicals pertaining to Education, will soon, of itself, become an object of interest to teachers and school committees. * * * Royall Augustus Merriam, of Topsfield, was elected *Librarian and Cabinet Keeper*, and Nehemiah Cleaveland of Newbury [born in Topsfield] was elected a *counsellor*.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 7, 1834.

Police Court. Aaron Porter Kneeland and Cyrus Kneeland, of Topsfield, were fined at the Police Court, last week, for creating a disturbance and fighting, in the market, on Saturday evening previous.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 4, 1834.

Notice. All persons who consider the existence of slavery in this country as a great political and moral evil, and who are disposed to adopt measures to enlighten the public mind in respect to this evil, and to secure its removal —— and who are disposed, if on an interview it shall be thought expedient to form an Essex County Society for the promotion of this object, are requested to meet for that purpose at the Hotel in Topsfield, on Friday, the 4th day of April next, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 1, 1834.

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Topsfield, qualified to vote in town affairs, held April 7, 1834 [yesterday] it was Voted, To request the County Commissioners not to grant any licenses for the sale of any distilled or fermented liquors of any kind whatever, to any person or persons within the town of Topsfield, the ensuring year, 78 voted for and 43 against the motion.

Attest. Jacob Towne Jr., Town Clerk.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 8, 1834.

Died. In Topsfield, Henry Washington, only child of Joel and Mehitable Lake, aged 9 years. Funeral tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Friends and relatives are invited to attend without further invitation.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 8, 1834.

ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION.

At a Convention held at Topsfield, on Friday the 4th day of April, 1834, agreeably to previous notice, to consider the expediency of forming an Essex County Anti-Slavery Society, Rev. Gardner B. Perry was called to the chair, and William Oakes and John G. Whittier were appointed secretaries.

Forty-six gentlemen were present from eleven towns of the county. * * *

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted. On motion of J. G. Whittier,

Resolved, That the people of the *Free States* are involved in the guilt, the shame and the danger of slavery, and are consequently bound to use all constitutional and christian means for its utter and immediate extinction.

[Resolutions offered by William Oakes, Rev. Dudley Phelps, and Edward Johnson were also adopted.]

Voted, on motion of Rev. C. P. Grosvenor, that immediate measures be taken by this convention for the formation of an anti-slavery Society in each town in the county, where no such society now exists, and that delegates from these local societies and other friends of the cause in the county, be requested to meet for the formation of an Essex County Anti-slavery Society, at Salem, on Wednesday, the eleventh day of June next, at 10 o'clock A. M. * * *

Rev. C. P. Grosvenor, Mr. Whittier, Rev. D. Phelps, G. B. Perry, and D. L. Kimball, were appointed a committee to prepare a constitution.* * *

Salem Gazette, Apr. 15, 1834.

The Essex County Natural History Society will meet at Topsfield, on Wednesday next, the 16th day of the present month, at 9 and 2 o'clock, to choose Committees, and make arrangements for the ensuing season.

At the meeting the objects of the society will be explained, and specimens in the various branches of Natural History, with apparatus for their collection, will be exhibited and illustrated —also, various plates and engravings including some of the plates of Mr. *Audubon's* Birds of America.

Ladies and Gentlemen who feel an interest in the objects of the Society are respectfully invited to attend.

Per order of the Curators,
JOHN M. IVES, Secretary.
Salem Gazette, Apr. 15, 1834.

COMMUNICATIONS.

At a legal meeting of the inhabitants of Topsfield, held on the 8th inst. it was voted unanimously, to choose a committee of three persons to request the County Commissioners to license all persons that the Selectmen have or may approbate for the year ensuing.

Topsfield against Topsfield.

The town of Topsfield, at a legal meeting held April 7th, voted, 78 to 43, *against* Rum; and at another legal meeting, May 8th, voted UNANIMOUSLY in *favor* of Rum, 44 being present and voting having gained one during the intervening month. The anti-rum citizens, having once expressed their sentiments on the subject, for the information of the County Commissioners, as to the wants of the town in this behalf, wisely concluded to stay at home, and attend to their husbandry, or to their other avocations. One or two went to the meeting, as spectators, and it is said the proceedings were conducted with the utmost harmony and good will. It was indeed a most loving meeting. It was truly affecting. All hearts seemed to be melted into one. No feuds—no opposition—no distraction—but all peace, love and concord.

"How pleasant 'tis to see
Brethren and friends agree:
Each in their proper station move—
And each fulfil their part
With sympathizing heart,
In all the cares of life and love.

Salem Register, May 12, 1834.

☞ At a meeting of the inhabitants of Topsfield, on the 8th inst. it was voted unanimously, to choose a committee of three persons to request the County Commissioners to license *all* persons that the Selectmen have or may approbate for the year ensuing.

Commercial Advertiser (*Salem*), *May* 14, 1834.

The fourth semi-annual meeting of the Essex County Teacher's Association will be holden at Topsfield on Friday and Saturday the 23d and 24th of the present month. * * *

There will be lectures by William P. Braman of Danvers; R. A. Merriam of Topsfield, on preserving health in schools; Benjamin Greenleaf of Bradford; and Charles O. Kimball of Methuen. At some suitable time during the meeting one or more officers of the National History Society of this County will be present to explain the use of various articles of apparatus, and the best methods of preserving specimins, a variety of which, with Mr. Audubon's plates, will be exhibited.

DANIEL B. PAGE, Rec. Sec'y.

Salem Gazette, May 16, 1834.

Topsfield has redeemed herself.

Messrs. Palfray & Cook.—A communication appeared in the Register a short time ago, headed "Topsfield against Topsfield." As that communication was calculated to mislead, you will confer a favor by publishing the following true statements of facts.

The Selectmen, of Topsfield, in accordance with the petition of ten freeholders, requesting them so to do, issued their warrant for a meeting to see if the town would vote to request the County Commissioners not to grant any licenses to any person or persons to sell any distilled or fermented liquors to any name or nature whatever, the ensuing year. This meeting was notified to be held on the same day that the annual March meeting was adjourned to. The first motion made at said meeting was to pass over the article—which motion was negatived, 78 to 65. The second motion was to see if the town would vote to request the County Commissioners not to grant any licenses, of any persons, as aforesaid, for the ensuing year—which vote passed in the affirmative, 78 to 43. Some of those persons who voted to pass the article over, voted on the other side, expecting that a vote would be obtained to dispense with *Rum* only. The writer in the Register states that the vote was 78 to 43 against Rum. This was intended to deceive the people. Why did he not insert in his communication all that the town vote to abolish? He is presumed to be such a lover of *Wine*, that he did not wish to have it known that the the town voted to request the County Commissioners not to license any person or persons to sell any *distilled*, or *fermented* liquors whatever. The truth is, this writer intends to convey the idea that *Rum* was all that the town voted to dispense with—and it is presumed that it is all that some of the pretended temperance people of Topsfield wished to have put down; for they seemed to be much interested to have the *wine* licenses obtained—so that the *wine-bibbers* might be accommodated.

What principle is there in a man who votes to have no rum, wine, cider or beer sold in the town, and afterwards applies to be approbated and obtains a license for part of the same—or what shall be said of another individual who continues to deal out occasionally to people *Rum*—or one who tends a Wine house, and says he will deal it out as long as the Constitution will bear him out in it?

The Register writer states the meeting on the 8th of May was a most loving meeting. I wish the same could be said of the meeting on the 7th of April—for then it was almost impossible for the Moderator to count the half temperance people, for they

were in great agitation. It will not do for persons who would be thought to be consistent, to preach one thing and practice the reverse. I think this writer used a cunning term when he said the "anti-*Rum* citizens," &c.—but he could not say the anti-*Wine* citizens, for this phrase he did not relish.

I herewith subjoin the vote of the town of Topsfield on the 8th day of May.

"*Voted, unanimously*—To choose a committee of three persons to request the County Commissioners to license *all* persons that the Selectmen have or may approbate the year ensuing."

NO DECEPTION.

Commercial Advertiser (*Salem*), *May* 21, 1834.

Innholders, Retailers, and sellers of Wine in Topsfield licensed by the Court of County Commissioners.

John Rea, *Innholder in 1st degree*, Susanna Cummings, *Innholder in 2d degree.* Frederick Perley, *Retailer in 2d degree.*

Salem Gazette, May 30, 1834.

NOTICE. A School for young ladies will be opened in *Topsfield Academy* the first Monday in June, under the care of Miss Ann Searle. The usual branches of advanced education will be taught.

Salem Gazette, June 3, 1834.

SALUTARIUM.

Dr. Merriam will open his house in Topsfield for the reception of Invalids and those affected with chronic complaints in Medicine or Surgery. Various kinds of baths will be provided and carriages for short excursions in the surrounding country.

Disorders of the chest, bowels and skin, and particularly of children, will probably be more benefited by a few weeks residence in the country, than in any other situation.

Kind attentions may be relied on for moderate compensation.

Salem Gazette, June 3, 1834.

Intemperance encouraged by those who have pledged themselves to discourage it.

There is a young Tavern Keeper in a town, not a hundred miles from Topsfield, who, when a vote was taken to inform the County Commissioners as to the wants of the Town, in respect to Licenses, "voted to instruct the Selectmen not to approbate any person to sell ardent or fermented liquors, for the year en-

suing," and who, with crocodile sympathy, persuaded all he could, with any argument to vote with him to put down the same—Wine, Cider and Beer;—yet, in a very short time after the vote was carried, he found that if he was deprived of his license to sell wine, cider and beer, his interest would be materially affected, and he speedily turned, as if struck by some magical wand, and his license has since been obtained; and he now sells to all who wish to purchase; and whenever any real friend of Temperance reproves him for his inconsistency, he replies that he *will sell*, as long as the Constitution will permit him.

There is also in the same place, a Store Keeper, who was very anxious to pass the vote above alluded to, who has since obtained his license to sell Wine, Cider and Beer. What can any honest man think of such inconsistent conduct in those who have pledged themselves to do all in their power to discourage intemperance? And what can be thought of those half-temperance men who give their approbation of such measures? And how can this be explained unless the half-temperance men are fed from the wine bottles, and cider barrels of these anti-temperance men?

"How pleasant 'tis to see"
Half-temperance men agree—&c.

One who wishes to see things done in order
Commercial Advertiser (*Salem*), *June* 4, 1834.

The semi-annual meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association was holden at Topsfield, on the 23d and 24th of May, * * * there being at least three hundred persons assembled from eighteen of the different towns in the County. * * * [A half column account.]

Salem Gazette, *June* 6, 1834.

Messrs. Palfray & Cook: In a late communication in the Register, signed "Anti-Wine," it is stated, that the assertion made in the Advertiser in respect to the Young Tavern Keeper and a Store Keeper, is a falsehood. I can state that the assertion is not a falsehood; and this is not the first time, that "Anti-Wine" has endeavored to deceive the public respecting Topsfield; for the whole tenor of his writings bespeak deception and falsehoods; and if we are not mistaken in the Register writer, of him we should not expect better things. For we verily believe that there is no more originality in him, than merely to indite and give free course to absolute fabrications.

As to the young Tavern Keeper, he was very active in having the vote of the 7th of April pass; and used his best endeavors to persuade all he could possibly, to vote with him in passing it. And in a few days afterwards the Wine House was licensed, and he now sells to all who wish to purchase; and he says he will continue to sell as long as the Constitution will bear him out in it. Wonderful friend of Temperance! Wonderful Consistency! One day for putting down all kinds of Spirituous and Fermented liquors, the very next day, selling Wine, Cider and Beer!

We could also state that the Store Keeper was extremely solicitous that the vote alluded to should pass; and at the town meeting used all possible means to carry it; and has since been licensed as a retailer in the 2d degree. Can the cause of Temperance be advanced by such measures, taken by those who have pledged themselves to use all fair means to promote it? We think it cannot be, and we do sincerely hope that these men will duly consider their ways and turn from them, and use their influence in a cause which has for its end the good of thousands.

One word more for the Register writer. If we are rightly informed, the appellation "Anti-Wine," he cannot claim with any degree of propriety—for we are informed and by respectable persons, that but a few days, both before and after he lectured so feelingly from a patched up address, in the Methodist Church, he was seen to take his glass of Wine with all the pleasure imaginable; and we are informed that a short time since he was boasting in the Wine house that he had drunk six bottles of Wine at one time on a wager, and that it was many days, after taking antimony once in three or four hours, before he was entirely sober—while his opponent, who could drink only five was crying Oh! dear, I shall die! I shall die!

If his wine opponent was in such keen distress after drinking five bottles of wine, what must have been "Anti-Wine's" feelings after taking six? Surely he must have been in a condition to extend the right hand of *real* fellowship to "those of the matted hair, the crownless hat, the worn out shoes, the ragged coat;" and we should think he would have gone with a tottering step down to the grave, never more to have degraded himself below the beast of the fields. If we had no other evidence of the Register writer, than his frequent loiterings about the barroom of the Wine house, we should conclude that he was a winebibber, for we may generally judge persons by the company they keep. And if he did not love Wine dearly he would not desire to be where it is.

We rejoice to state that the young Register writer is not a native of Topsfield, but has lately come into the place, and attempted until recently, to give his attention to Professional Study, but now is engaged in a much nobler object—writing one thing and practising another! We do believe an one to be a wolf in sheep's clothing; a real enemy to Temperance—one whose writings will never do good as long as he remains as far out of the path of rectitude as he now is. We do advise the youngster to forbear, for little does he consider how much injury he is doing to one of the best of causes, that of Temperance. We do know that the real friends of Temperance in Topsfield do not thank him for what he has done, or what he may do, as long as he continues to write and yet indulge in the use of wine. For the people of Topsfield are too much enlightened to be imposed upon by a young man who has lately took up his residence here, and attempted to dictate to the people what they shall do, and what they shall not do. We will now stop for this time, to commence hereafter if it be necessary, to make further exposures. TRUTH.

Topsfield, June 12, 1834.

Commercial Advertiser (*Salem*), *June* 18, 1834.

The following persons have been licensed by the County Commissioners, as Innholders, Retailers, Sellers of Wine, &c. at their respective places of business in their several towns, viz:

TOPSFIELD. John Rea, *Innholder in 1st degree.* Susanna Cummings, *Innholder in 2d degree.* Frederick Perley, *Retailer in 2d degree.*

Commercial Advertiser (*Salem*), *June* 18, 1834.

[Several communications *pro* and *con*, appear in the *Register* on the temperance situation in Topsfield. In the June 16 issue is printed the following:] Another Topsfield correspondent has sent us some remarks in reply to the recent communications in the Advertiser, respecting the late Temperance meetings in that town. We regret that we have not room for the whole article. The following is an extract:—

"While the antis, or 'half temperance people' as the writer calls them, were in an uproar, the Temperance people were firm and immovable, urging forward their cause, which was faithfully supported both by young and old, six "HEROES of the REVOLUTION," being present, ready to defend the Town against a more deadly enemy (Rum) than any foreign foe."

In a further communication a writer states that both applicants for wine licenses made application before the meetings; that the storekeeper, although a license had been granted, yet had not availed himself of his privilege to sell wine; that the young tavern keeper never applied for a license, nor had he received one; he was hired to tend for another.

Salem Register, June 26, 1834.

On Monday afternoon, during a thunder squall, the lightning struck a large oak tree, near Mrs. Cummings' Hotel, in Topsfield, which rent it asunder from the top-most branch to the roots.

Salem Register, July 14, 1834.

COMMUNICATION.

Mr. Editor.

I have noticed, in several communications lately published in the Register and Advertiser, a great attempt to destroy, or at least to injure the good character of two of our townsmen, whom they have designated as the "young Tavern-keeper" and "Store-keeper." Now, Sir, I would state that these young men do now bear, as they have ever done, as good a name as any two men who can be found in Topsfield, or in Essex county, and they have done, and are still doing, as much to promote the cause of Temperance, as any men who can be named. The "young Tavern-keeper" is hired in the Hotel and has no more to do with the affairs of the house than others who have been employed there in years past. The house is under the superintendence of the respected lady who has kept it for a number of years past, and who has ever maintained good order and decorum ever since it has been under her care. If the young man did vote on the 7th of April to request the County Commissioners not to grant any licenses in Topsfield for the sale of spirituous or fermented liquors, where is his inconsistency? Why is so much written to lower him in public estimation? He has no more to do with the concerns of the house than the ostlers employed by Col. Colman have to do with the business of the Eastern Stage Company; how, therefore, is he inconsistent? And I would here state that he never requested any man to assist him in obtaining a license for himself, or for any other person whatever. So, Mr. "No Deception" must be incorrect as regards this matter.

I do think the "young tavern-keeper," as he is called, is much

injured, and all acquainted with the facts relative to the licenses will allow that his conduct has been highly commendable. He his borne all this censure without opening his mouth in reply, for he knows that no injuries are so bitter and inexcusable as those from a pretended friend, and in whom he, to his sorrow, placed confidence. In such he finds a foe where he least expected it, and loses a friend when he most wanted one. Shall the innocent be censured for what they are not guilty? No—rather let truth and reason bear sway, than blind infatuation.

As respects the "Store-keeper," he has sacrificed friends and property for the last three years, to carry on this great and good cause, which has saved so many from the vortex of ruin and caused thousands of wives and children to rejoice in the recovery of their husbands and fathers from a state far below the beasts of the field. Why is it, that after this man has given up the selling of all kinds of spirits and wines, he is to be hurled from the meritorious station he occupies in society? Can any man, who is not laboring under alienation of mind, deprive him of this valuable gem, respectability? O forbear! take not away that which he so richly deserves, but rather let him peaceably share with us the blessings which Providence has so bountifully bestowed upon us all.

The writers in the Register and Advertiser would make the public think that some wonderful phenomenon has happened in Topsfield, which is to prove fatal to Temperance. But after a careful investigation of the matter, I cannot see any cause for so much vituperative matter as has been written.

They vainly think the community is extremely interested in the licensing of two or three individuals in Topsfield. They have made a great stir about the *Wine* license, but have been very mute on the license that was granted to sell *Brandy*, *Rum* and *Gin*, with all spirituous liquors! Such articles as these, I suppose, they consider so *inoffensive*, so *harmless*, that they cannot but do a man good! But wine, O thou evil doer! thou cause of all mischief! let us but kill thee, and then thou, O Rum and Brandy, shall live forever! This appears to be the sentiment of the gentlemen writers who have wielded the pen so powerfully against our two respected townsmen, and each other, and which they would have us adopt.

The writer of this intends not to enter into a dispute (as his time is taken up in manual labor), but only to give what he thinks a fair statement. The dispute, carried on for some time past, has not been the means of any good to the cause of Temperance. It is difficult to ascertain which has done the most

injury—but we think Mr. "Anti-Wine" is not to be commended for answering Mr. "No Deception" in the manner he did, in the commencement of the dispute. Surely the opposers of Bacchus have enough to contend with without this controversy. Yet, under all these discouragements, if a steady course is pursued, the cause of Temperance must and will triumph.

In closing, I would respectfully request the editors of the Register and Advertiser not to give place to any more communications on the subject of "Topsfield licenses," as I know the people of this town are heartily sick of the matter, and it is evident the public are disgusted with the dispute as it has been carried on.

CANDOR.

Salem Register, July 24, 1834.

SALUTARIUM.

DR. MERRIAM will open his house in Topsfield for the reception of Invalids and those affected with chronic complaints in Medicine or Surgery. Various kinds of baths will be provided and carriages for short excursions in the surrounding country.

Disorders of the chest, bowels and skin, and particularly of children, will probably be more benefitted by a few weeks residence in the country than in any other situation.

Kind attentions may be relied on for moderate compensation.

Salem Gazette, July 25, 1834.

DIED. Drowned, in Topsfield river, on Sunday, Miss Louisa Towne, 18, daughter of Mr. Eben'r Towne.

Salem Gazette, August 1, 1834.

NOTICE.

THE FREEMASONS OF ESSEX COUNTY are requested to meet at the Topsfield Hotel, on MONDAY, the 15th day of September inst. at 10 o'clock A. M. for the purpose of considering the expediency of adopting a similar course of measures in regard to the Institution, with that already adopted in the County of Worcester, and contemplated in the Counties of Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin. It is particularly desired that the proposed meeting should be numerously attended, so that there may be a full expression of the sentiments of the Fraternity on the subject. This notice is given after a somewhat extensive consultation among the Masons of the County, and is in accordance with their wishes, so far as they have been ascertained.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 2, 1834.

MASONIC MEETING.

A meeting of Freemasons of Essex County was held yesterterday, pursuant to public notice, at the Topsfield Hotel, for the purpose of considering the expediency of adopting a similar course of measures in regard to the institution, with that already adapted in the counties of Worcester, Hampshire, Hampden and Franklin.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Nath'l Peabody, of Salem. Rev. Joseph B. Felt of Hamilton was chosen chairman, and Dr. Stephen Huse of Methuen, and Caleb Foote of Salem, secretaries.

The following named gentlemen were then appointed a committee to report resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting:—Messrs. Henry Whipple, Joseph G. Sprague, Rufus Choate, of Salem, John W. Proctor, of Danvers, Asahel Huntington, of Salem, John Davis, of Methuen, Joseph Newhall, of Lynn, William Stevens, and William Ferson, of Gloucester.

The meeting was addressed by several gentlemen, from different towns in the county, from whose statements it appeared that masonry, in their respective quarters, had already been surrendered in point of fact, and formally with regard to some masonic bodies in Salem, Newburyport, Marblehead, Gloucester, etc.

The following resolutions, reported by the Committee, were unanimously adapted:—

Resolved, That we have observed with pleasure, the measures adapted by our Masonic brethren in other parts of the Commonwealth, to allay the excitement at present existing in regard to Free Masonry, and cheerfully co-operate with them.

Resolved, That in the spirit, objects, and practical influences of the Masonic Institution, as it has existed within the sphere of our personal observation, there is nothing inconsistent with the religious and civil duties of its members, nothing dangerous to the order and security of society, and nothing adverse to the absolute supremacy of the law.

Resolved, That as a social and charitable association, it might still, to some purposes of utility, be perpetuated, had not a large portion of the community been induced to regard it as useless and dangerous, and had not the Legislature of this Commonwealth, by a recent law, passed with unprecedented unanimity, and partly by the votes of Masons, declared that it shall not exist here beyond the lives of its present members, thus placing us in a new and unanticipated relation to the goverment of Massachusetts.

Resolved, That while we regret that sentiment of apprehension and hostility, with which to so great an extent, the Masonic Institution is regarded, and while we believe that it springs from erroneous views of the actual tendencies and genuine principles of Masonry, and while we know and feel that whether in the Lodge or out of the Lodge, our hearts turn to our country, the constitution, and the laws with undivided love, and entire obedience, we yet recognize the duty of respecting public opinion, of giving peace, by any sacrifice but the sacrifice of principle, to the public mind, of rescuing the institution of Masonary established originally for the best purposes, for the promotion of good will and brotherly love and charity, from becoming the means of strife and alienation., and of removing, so far as in us lies, the hindrance which prevents all good men from uniting their counsels, and efforts to promote the general welfare, and that neither false pride, nor false fear, ought to deter us from this obvious and urgent duty:

Resolved, Therefore, That in view of the state of public opinion, and of the law of the land, it is expedient that the Masonic Institution cease to exist, and to this end we recommend, that the several Lodges in this County surrender their Charters, and after their concerns shall be closed, that their Funds be disposed of according to the charitable uses for which they have been collected.

Resolved—That the editors of the various newspapers in the County of Essex, be requested to copy these proceedings.

JOSEPH B. FELT, *Chairman.*

Stephen Huse, } *Secretaries.*
Caleb Foote, }

Salem Gazette, Sept. 16, 1834.

The Essex County Teacher's Association will hold their fifth annual meeting at Topsfield, on Friday and Saturday, the 28th and 29th of the present month.

Salem Gazette, Nov 18, 1834.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The winter term in this Institution will commence on Wednesday the 3d instant, to continue twelve weeks.

For instruction in the branches of common English study —$5.

For the higher branches of English, for Latin, Greek and French—$6.

A few scholars can be accommodated with boarding in the family of the instructor.

Alfred W. Pike.

Topsfield, Dec. 2, 1834.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 2, 1834.

REMARKABLE ROBBERY AT TOPSFIELD.

Mr. J. C. Davis, who arrived at Topsfield yesterday, in the eastern stage, from Dover, N. H., states that he was robbed of his pocket book, containing 1700 dollars, done up in packages of bank bills of $100 each.

Mr. D. did not proceed in the stage in which he arrived at Topsfield, and did not discover his loss until after it had set out for Boston. Finally, when search was made the empty pocket book was found behind an out house.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 16, 1835.

Hard Work in Cold Weather—Mr. Samuel Bradstreet, of Topsfield, between 13th Dec. and 10th of January inst. in which were 25 working days, with his team of one horse and six oxen, hauled 23 tons and 20 ft. of oak timber from Topsfield to Salem and Essex. In the mean time moved six cords of peat 1 1-4 miles, moved two cords of wood to market, broke the path on the Newburyport Turnpike through town, and broke other paths in town two days, with the assistance of one hired man only.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 23, 1835.

L. M. Sargent, Esq. of Boston, will deliver a Lecture before the *Union Temperance* Society of Topsfield, on the subject of *Temperance*, in Rev. Mr. McEwen's Meeting-house on Saturday evening next, Jan. 31. Also, on Sabbath Evening, Feb. 1, commencing at half past 6 o'clock, on each evening.

The friends of Temperance in the neighboring towns are respectfully invited to attend.

R. Phillips, Jr. Cor. Sec.

Topsfield, Jan. 27, 1835.

The pledge of this society prohibits the use of all distilled spirits, wines, strong beer, etc. as articles of drink. It is expected that the lecturer will expose the baneful effects of all drinks containing alcohol, on those who use them.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 30, 1835.

NOTICE—The Rev. Jason Whitman, the General Agent of the Unitarian Association, will preach in Topsfield, at the Academy, next Saturday Evening, 14th inst. Services to commence at 6 o'clock.—Also he will preach at the abovementioned place next Sabbath, 15th inst.

By order of the Committee of the Congregational Society in Topsfield. W. M. Hubbard.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 13, 1835.

TOPSFIELD. The following town officers were elected at the annual meeting in Topsfield on Tuesday last.

Nathaniel Perley, Moderator., Jacob Towne, jun, Town-Clerk., Selectmen, Jacob Towne, jun., David Towne, Wm. Hubbard, Samuel Bradstreet, Wm. Cummins., Assessors, David Towne, Amos Perkins, David Lake, jun., Overseers of the Poor, Joseph Batchelor, Nath'l Perley, Zaccheus Gould.

Salem Gazette, March 16, 1835.

ESSEX COUNTY ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Managers of this Society will be held at the Topsfield Hotel, TOMORROW, April 1st, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Salem Gazette, March 31, 1835.

COUNTY COVENTION.

A Convention will be held at Topsfield Hotel, on Saturday, the 25th inst. at 10 o'clock, A. M. for the purpose of nominating COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. The several towns in the County are requested to send Delegates, without distinction of PARTY, it being intended by those concerned in calling this Convention, to select such persons for these offices as are best qualified to discharge ALL their various and highly responsible duties.

Salem Gazette, April 21, 1835.

TOPSFIELD CONVENTION.

At a County Convention, held at Topsfield, on Saturday, the 25th inst., in pursuance of previous public notice to the several towns to send delegates, for the purpose of nominating a list of candidates for *County Commissioners*,

Hon. NEHEMIAH CLEVELAND, of Topsfield, was chosen Chairman, and SOLOMON H. CURRIER, of Newburyport, Secretary.

The returns of members were received and examined, and sixty nine answered to their names, representing seventeen towns, to wit: Salem, Danvers, Lynn, Saugus, Bradford, Rowley, Newbury, Newburyport, Beverly, Wenham, Ipswich, Gloucester, Marblehead, Salisbury, Amesbury, Middleton, and Topsfield.

A nominating committee, of one member from each town represented in convention, was appointed for the purpose of reporting a list of candidates for County and Special Commissioners, of which committee Hon. *Robert Rantoul*, of Beverly, was chairman.

The list reported, and afterwards *unanimously* agreed upon in convention, is as follows:

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,

Hon. ASA W. WILDES, of Newburyport [born in Topsfield].
JOHN W. PROCTOR, Esq., of Danvers.
Col. MOSES NEWELL, of West Newbury.

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS,

Hon. DAVID PUTMAN, of Salem.
WILLIAM WHIPPLE, Esq., of Gloucester.

Resolved, That this convention, having the fullest confidence in the qualifications of the individuals before named, for the high and important duties of County and Special Commissioners, and believing that, if elected, they will discharge these duties to the acceptance of the people, do therefore nominate and recommend them to the citizens of the County for their support at the approaching election.

Resolved, That this convention will use all honorable and fair means to secure their election.

A committee was chosen, consisting of Messrs. Andrew Nichols, Asahel Huntington, and Daniel Lord, to prepare an Address to the people, in behalf of the convention.

A committee was chosen to fill vacancies, if any of the gentlemen nominated should decline.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Convention be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and offered for publication in the several papers of the County.

The convention then adjourned without day.

NEH. CLEAVELAND, *Chairman.*

A true Copy.
Attest, S. H. Currier, Sec'y.

Salem Gazette, April 28, 1835.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The fifth semi-annual Meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association will be holden at Topsfield on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 22d and 23d of the present month.

Particulars will be given in future papers. All persons interested in the progress of Education, especially teachers and delegates from the several School Committees in the County, are invited.

Per order,

DAVID P. PAGE. *Rec. Sec.*

Salem Gazette, May 5, 1835.

"BRUTAL CRUELTY."

Messrs. Editors: Having seen in the Boston Morning Post, of May 2d, 1835, an anonymous communication, headed "Brutal Cruelty," accusing Mr. PIKE, of this town, in several particulars in respect to his treatment of a young girl, *Sarah B. Jay*, who has lived in his family during the last five or six months, and who has been recently returned to her mother in Boston. We, the undersigned, have availed ourselves of such means, as we consider sufficient to authorize us to form and express an opinion in the case,—and accordingly certify that we are satisfied that there has been no cause of complaint against Mr. or Mrs. Pike in respect to the girl. We are satisfied that she was well fed and clothed, and comfortably provided for on their part. Her sickly appearance and diseased feet, we consider a necessary consequence of her own personal conduct, which was, for more than two months previous to her being placed at the disposal of the Overseers of the Poor of Topsfield, filthy and disgusting, in a degree we have never known equalled. And therefore, we view the Communication alluded to, as slanderous in the extreme. We have the fullest confidence in the kindness and attention of Mr. and Mrs. Pike to all under their care.

N. CLEAVELAND,
JACOB TOWNE,
MOSES WILDES,
R. A. MERRIAM,
JAMES F. McEWEN,
NATHANIEL PERLEY,
JEREMIAH STONE.

Topsfield, May 6, 1835.

Salem Register, May 11, 1835.

VALUABLE REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION IN TOPSFIELD.

On TUESDAY, the second day of June next, at 3 o'clock P. M. on the premises,

THAT valuable Dwelling House with the land under and adjoining, with all the other buildings thereon, now occupied by Billy Emerson, in Topsfield. For further particulars apply

S. Upton, Auct.

Salem Gazette, May 19, 1835.

ESSEX CO. TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The fifth semiannual meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association, will be holden at Topsfield, on Friday and Saturday, the 22d and 23d of the present month. The following Lectures may be expected :—

Friday At 10 o'clock A. M. by Thomas B. Fox, of Newburyport, on "The Meaning and Objects of Education." At 11 o'clock, by Lionel Tenney, of Andover, on "Teaching the Primary Branches of Instruction." At 2 o'clock P. M., by Sam'l M. Worcester of Salem, on "The English Language." At half past 3 o'clock, a discussion to be opened by Samuel R. Hall, of Andover; Question—"Can schools be governed by moral suasion *only*."

Saturday—At 9 o'clock, A. M., a Discussion or Lecture. At 10 o'clock a Lecture by John A. Vaughan, of Salem, on "Moral and Religious Influence in schools." At 11 o'clock, by Benj. Greenleaf, of Bradford, on "The Geology and Mineralogy of the Country."

All persons interested in the progress of Education, especially teachers and delegates from the several School Committees in the County, are invited.

Per order. David P. Page, Recording Sec.

Newburyport, May 2.

Salem Gazette, May 22, 1835.

(*To be continued.*)

VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

BIRTHS.

1909.

Jan. 5. ———McFagan, son of Robert and Jane (McGuchin) McFagan.
Jan. 15. Thomas F., son of Fred E. and Hattie E. (Fuller) Watson.
Jan. 25. Abbie Elmar, dau. of George P. and Sarah (McNulty) Davison.
Feb. 11. Thomas F. son of Frederick E. and May H. (Lowe) Pingree.
Mar. 23. Frederick Andrew, son of Andrew and Isabelle R. (Kelley) Gould.
Apr. 3. Eveline L. dau. of Melvin W. and Bessie E. (Welch) Smerage.
Apr. 9. John R., son of John W. and Florence M. (Derry) Fuller.
June 11. Richard L. son of Forrest W. and Alice L. (Perkins) Rust.
June 13. Mabel A. E., dau. of Mathias I. and Anna (Olesen) Hansen.
June 26. Stephen A., son of Thomas A. and Annie V. (O'Donnell) Pierce.
July 2. Walter Albin, son of Walter S. and Lulu A. (Albin) Peterson.
Sept. 1. Constance L., dau. of William A. and Grace E. (Pierce) Fuller.
Oct. 24. Roger T., son of Timothy J. and Edith A. (Smith) Fuller.
Nov. 21. Thomas E. P. son of Morris J. and Mary A. (Bennett) Brown.
Dec. 10. Walter Maynard, son of Daniel O. and Mary H. (O'Regan) Peterson.

MARRIAGES.

1909.

Jan.	27.	Richard J. Walsh (Topsfield), son of James and Bridget (Brennick) Walsh. Lena G. Currier (Middleton), dau. of James M. and Rebecca (Richardson) Currier.
Apr.	20.	John J. Collins (Topsfield), son of Richard and Margaret (McHugh) Collins. Elizabeth I. Kirby (Danvers), dau. of Michael W. and Mary (Murphy) Kirby.
June	12.	Harlan M. Greaves (Charlestown), son of Severenous A. and Sarah E. (Patterson) Greaves. Berniece D. Frame (Topsfield) dau. of Francis C. and Elizabeth (Bordman) Frame.
Sept.	14.	Clarence H. Lunt (Beverly), son of Hervey and Elizabeth A. (Blake) Lunt. Grace G. Peabody (Topsfield), dau. of Alden P. and Lydia A. (Wildes) Peabody.
Sept.	29.	Lewis H. Williams (Topsfield), son of Thomas P. and Eliza H. (Harding) Williams. Elizabeth W. Carroll (Ipswich), dau. of Levi J. and Phebe A. (Dodge) Carroll.
Oct.	20.	Geo. L. Bowser (Topsfield), son of Joseph and Henrietta (Cole) Bowser. Bella MacDonald (Topsfield), dau. of Ronald and Margaret (MacDonald) MacDonald.
Dec.	24.	Dutton T. Hill, (Topsfield), son of George and Nell (Cartey) Hill. Isabel Russell, (Salem), dau. of James and Isabel (Martin) Russell.

DEATHS.

1909.

Jan. 9. Roseltha, wife of Edward Otis Gould and dau. of William O. and Betsey (Burbank) Sides, aged 69 yrs., 5 mos., 26 dys.

Jan. 20. Daniel Fuller, son of Benjamin and Esther (Wilkins) Fuller, aged 66 yrs., 4 mos., 17 dys.

Feb. 23. Eva, wife of Samuel Hood and dau. of Francis and Elizabeth (Hawley) Thomas, aged 47 yrs., 8 mos.

Mar. 25. Albert Hermon Davison, son of George H. and Elma L. (Averill) Davison, aged 50 yrs., 5 mos., 10 dys.

Mar. 30. Margaret, wife of Richard Collins and dau. of John and Margaret (Barry) McHugh, aged 62 yrs.

Apr. 12. Josiah Arthur Lamson, son of Josiah B. and Angelina (Mason) Lamson, aged 65 yrs., 11 mos., 9 dys.

May 11. Dudley Bradstreet, son of John and Sallie (Rea) Bradstreet, aged 81 yrs., 10 mos., 5 dys.

June 24. Roy Franklin Fuller, son of Joseph and Mary L. (Peabody) Fuller, aged 1 yr., 2 mos., 23 dys.

June 27. Harriet Bingham Lane, dau. of Albert G. and Sarah E. S. (Cutts) Lane, aged 71 yrs., 5 mos., 12 dys.

July 4. Luther Dimmack Stanwood, son of Moses Poor and Eliza Amanda (Carr) Stanwood, aged 58 yrs., 8 mos., 26 dys.

July 5. Samuel Thibedeau, son of Edward and Vitline Thibedeau, aged 28 yrs.

July 5. Patrick Fennely, son of Thomas Fennely, aged 38 yrs.

July 25. Anna (Hettstram) wife of Dutton T. Hill, aged 38 yrs.

Aug. 2. William L. Batchelder, son of Ezra and Mary S. (Andrews) Batchelder, aged 60 yrs., 10 mos., 22 dys.

Aug. 22. Nancy A., widow of Daniel B. Gardner and dau. of Benjamin F. and Eunice P. (Boardman) Rogers, aged 77 yrs., 1 mo., 28 dys.

Aug. 31. Bernard Mulligan, son of Michael Mulligan, aged 72 yrs., 8 mos., 28 dys.

Sept. 12. Constance Louise, dau. of Willie A. and Grace E. (Pierce) Fuller, aged 11 dys.

Oct. 14. Domingus Gonsalvus Roderick, son of Antonio Gonsalvus de Gago and———(Roderigues) Roderick, aged 75 yrs., 8 mos., 6 dys.

Nov. 29. Ephraim Perkins Averill, son of Ephraim and Lydia (Potter) Averill, aged 73 yrs., 8 mos., 19 dys.

Deaths in other places, Interment in Topsfield.

1909.

Feb. 27. Ira C. Porter, died in Hyde Park, Mass., aged 68 yrs., 10 mos., 11 dys.

Mar. 17. Mary P. F. Striley, died in Hamilton, Mass., aged 49 yrs., 10 mos., 3 dys.

Mar. 29. Sarah J. Wildes, died in Otisfield, Me., aged 82 yrs., 1 mo., 10 dys.

May 27. Ruth E. Phillips, died in Malden, Mass., aged 2 mos., 6 dys.

May 30. Thomas F. Gould, died in Haverhill, Mass., aged 60 yrs., 8 mos., 23 dys.

Sept. 16. George L. Perkins, died in Ogden, Utah, aged 19 yrs., 1 mo., 16 dys.

Oct. 22. Constant Jerome Bell, died in Georgetown, Mass., aged 3 mos., 14 dys.

Oct. 26. John P. Glidden, died in Effingham, N. H , aged 68 yrs.

Oct. 30. Jane O. Welch, died in Merrimac, Mass., aged 68 yrs., 10 mos., 17 dys.

Nov. 1. Ferdinand P. Clapp, died in Haverhill, Mass., aged 58 yrs., 2 mos., 24 dys.

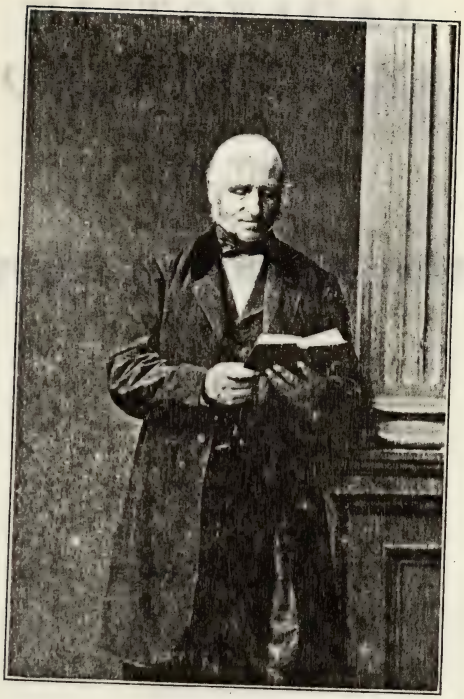
Nov. 16. Caroline E. Carswell, died in Lynn, Mass., aged 70 yrs. 2 mos., 28 dys.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1909.

1909.	
February 23.	The Ray-Peirce farmhouse on Boston St., owned by Thomas W. Peirce, destroyed by fire during the night and the family cook, Mrs. Eva Wood, burned to death.
May 1.	Free Rural Mail Delivery inaugurated.
May 1.	Home of Rev. B. Alfred Dumm entered by two burglars and several shots exchanged. They were afterwards captured in Boston and sentenced to the Concord Reformatory.
July 5.	Patrick Fenley and Samuel Thibedeau, employees at the Burley Farm, Danvers, drowned in the Ipswich river near the Railroad bridge.
July 17.	Clifford F. Hall, of Wells River, Vt., elected principal of the Topsfield High School.
November 2.	Electric lighting introduced into houses by the Beverly Gas & Electric Light Co.

BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1909.

Mrs. Ernest H. (Peirce) Pentecost, Boston St.; dwelling-house, stable and garage.
George R. Shattuck, Wenham St.; garage.
Johnson L. Walker, Haverhill St.; dwelling-house and garage.
Arthur F. Perkins, Haverhill St.; addition to barn.
John J. Jackman, Main St.; dwelling-house.
Melvin W. Smerage, Pemberton Ave.; dwelling-house and barn.
Miss Margaret Cummings, River St.; dwelling-house and garage.
Harry Williams, Main St.; remodelled barn, etc.
Gilbert Balch, Main St.; interior of dwelling-house remodelled and addition built.
Thomas E. Proctor, Perkins St.; saw mill and work-shop on Mill brook.
Dr. Edward C. Streeter, Asbury St.; dwelling-house remodelled and new ell built.
Bradley W. Palmer, Asbury St.; greenhouse, chicken-house, etc.
Justin H. Welch, Main St.; addition to dwelling-house.
Fred E. Watson, Prospect St.; The Samuel Conley house on River St. removed to Prospect St.
Miss Alice S. Tidd, High St.; dwelling-house remodelled.



JEREMIAH STONE, M. D.

THE

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

OF THE

TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XVI

1911

TOPSFIELD, MASS.

Published by the Society

1911

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW

Editor

THE MERRILL PRESS

Topsfield

MASS.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SECRETARY OF THE

TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1910.

The membership of the society on December 31, 1910, was 252. Only four new members have been elected during the year, while one has resigned and five have been removed by death:—Henry W. Lake, a charter member and at the time of his death a director of the society; Mrs. Jennie Hood Bosson of Reading, whose genealogy of the Hood family was printed in the last volume of our Historical Collections; Miss Anna S. Lamson of Topsfield; Fred A. Phelps of Laconia, N. H., and David Cummings of Boston. Mr. Cummings executed a will on Oct. 8, 1907 and when it was offered for probate on April 25, 1910 it was found that the sum of two thousand dollars had been given to this society together with an interest in the residue probably amounting to a like sum. This generous bequest makes it possible for the society to acquire a permanent home and having in view the possible ownership of real property, incorporation under the laws of Massachusetts was effected at a meeting held September 2nd, and at the same meeting a committee was appointed to ascertain on what terms the Capen house, so called, might be secured as a permanent home for the Society, thereby preserving for later generations one of the most interesting of the 17th century dwellings yet remaining in Essex County. After conference, however, it was found that the present owner declined to sell the property and the terms under which the house might be leased for a period of five years seemed so disadvantageous that it seems necessary to abandon the proposed plan. No other building of recognized antiquity now remains in town that is worthy of consideration in this connection and if the plan of acquiring

permanent quarters is to be followed out it necessarily must be along other lines. In the not distant future it will be an imperative necessity to provide enlarged quarters for the Topsfield Town Library and should a library building be erected, no doubt some arrangement could be made whereby the society would be provided with suitable rooms and the financial details arranged with mutual advantage.

Volume 14 of the Historical Collections has been distributed during the year and Volume 15 is about ready to be sent to the binder. Four meetings have been held at which papers have been read by Henry F. Long and the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Secretary.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1910

RECEIPTS

1910			
Jan. 1,	Balance on hand,	$147 75	
Dec. 31,	Hist. Colls. sold,	13 00	
"	Annual dues,	100 50	
"	Binding Hist. Colls.	25 20	
			$286 75

PAYMENTS

1910			
Dec. 31,	Printing Vol. 14 (balance),	$ 45 40	
	Engraving "	2 40	
	Binding "	30 42	
	Printing Vol. 15,	54 41	
	Fee for incorporating,	5 00	
	Deficit, transportation (Wellman),	4 60	
	Postals,	1 80	
	Balance,	142 72	
			$286 75
Jan. 2, 1911,	Balance cash on hand,	$142 72	

THE BUILDING FUND

1910			
Jan. 1,	Amount on hand, (Salem Savings Bank),	$781 80	
	Interest one year,	31 56	
			$813 36

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,
Treasurer.

Examined and approved,

C. J. PEABODY,
J. H. TOWNE.

THE PHYSICIANS OF TOPSFIELD, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF EARLY MEDICAL PRACTICE.

BY HENRY FOLLANSBEE LONG.

In the early days of New England there was no distinct class of men following the profession of medicine, but the practice was taken up in connection with some other calling. In every community either the minister or the schoolmaster or some skilled nurse was expected to act in cases of need. In taking care of the sick, the neighborly interest stood in good stead, in fact much in olden days had to depend upon kindly neighbors. At the period when Massachusetts was settled, medicine was an art rather than a science.

The question of some medical man to serve them was a matter considered deeply by the colonists. "For many years before the Puritans came to this country, being subjected to bitter persecution, and foreseeing the possibility of an ejectment, a considerable number of their ministers studied medicine. They saw the probable needs of the future, and fitted themselves, as best they could, for any emergency that might arise in a new settlement, hence they formed a large proportion of the early physicians of Massachusetts." Even to-day we see our foreign missionaries studying medicine as practical preparation for their

duties in a new field. This custom, in fact, is as old as civilization itself, from the days of the ancient priests of Egypt, Greece, and Rome, who were the ones to collect and preserve the traditions of medicine. There is no record that any of the early Topsfield ministers practised medicine, but one of the early practitioners was also a schoolmaster.

Some of the early remedies are at times amusing and at others disgusting. Many and manifold are the remedies to "chear the heart," to "drive melancholy," to "cure one pensive," "for the megrums," and "for a grief," and without doubt the lonely colonists often needed them. We also learn from the old records that "things ill for the heart were beans, pease, sadness, onions, anger, evil tidings, and loss of friends; a very arbitrary and unjust classification." Our ancestors were troubled with insomnia. Here is a cure: "Bruise a handful of anis-seeds, and steep them in Red Rose Water and make it up in little bags, and binde one of them to each Nostrill, and it will cause sleep." Among other things we learn that, "picking the gums with the bill of an osprey is good for the toothache, . . . bear's grease is good for aches and cold swellings, . . . a stone found in the head of the codfish, when pulverized, stops fluxes of blood." For fevers it was customary to take "two salt white herrings and slit them down the back and bind them to the soles of the patient's feet."

Another ingredient of the early doses,—unicorn's horns—must have been difficult to secure in New England. John Endicott says in a letter written in 1634, "I have sent you Mrs. Beggarly her Unicorns horne and bezar stone." Both the unicorn's horn and the bezoar stone were sovereign antidotes against poisons. In the Winthrop Papers, in a letter to J. Winthrop, Jr., under date of January 26, 1656, we find the following: "Lett me tell you an easy medicine of mine owne that I have seene do miraculous cures in all sortes of vlcers, and in knitting soddainly broken bones . . . Beate to subtile powder one ounce of crabbes eyes, then putt vpon it in a high glasse foure ounces of strong wine-vinegar. It will instanely

boyle vp extremly; lett it stand till all be quiett; then straine it through a fine lenon; and of this liquor (wch will then tast like dead beere; without any sharpnesse) giue two spoonefuls att a time to drinke, three times a day; and you shall see a strange effect in a weeke or two," and, "For all sortes of agewes, I haue of late tryed the following magneticall experiment, with infallible successe. Pare the patients nayles when the fever is coming on; and put the paringes into a little bagge of fine lenon or sarsenet; and tye that about a liue eeles necke, in a tubbe of water. The eele will dye and the patient will recover. And if a dog or hog eate that eele, they will also dye."

Little by little, however, these disgusting agents were dropped, and in their places came the herbs and simples of our grandmothers. The family that did not provide itself with a plentiful supply of he bs was considered negligent of its duties. Every housrehold had its simple domestic remedies for common complaints, and few were the families that did not possess some old book containing manuscript receipts for all sorts of ordinary ailments. Some of the more common herbs used for concoctions, which in some cases were given without rhyme or reason and make us wonder how the patient could possibly recover, were, wormwood, tansy, yarrow, dandelion, burdock, plantain, catnip, and mint (all these herbs came here by importation), and ellicampane, angelica, gentian, St. John's wort, betony, and the like.

With a low standard of professional education, even among the physicians, it was not to be expected that there would be much general intelligence on medical matters in the community at large. The credulity of the ignorant was remarkable. In England the touch of the royal monarch was considered to cure king's evil and scrofula. It is not strange, therefore, that some lingering faith in the absurd customs should crop out in New England. In the early days general complaint appears against the "shoemakers, Weavers, and Almanack makers . . . who have laid aside the proper Business of their Lives to turn Quacks."

In the early days of the Colony there had been excellent opportunities, in the treatment of disease, for successful imposition on the ignorant and unthinking, and the quacks were not slow in availing themselves of the opportunity. In the year 1649 a law was passed which is creditable to the wisdom of that time, in regulating, within certain limits, the practice of medicine and surgery. It was a salutary enactment, as far as it went, but it afforded only a slight protection against the deficiencies of the profession. The tendency of the law was to confine the profession to skilled persons. The enactment was as follows:—

"Chirurgions, Midwives, Physitians." "Forasmuch as the law of God allowes no man to impaire the Life, or Limbs of any Person, but in a judicial way:—

"It is therefore Ordered, That no person or persons whatsoever, employed at any time about the bodyes of men, women or children, for preservation of life or health, as Chirurgions, Midwives, Physitians, or others, presume to exercise, or put forth any act contrary to the known approved Rules of art, in each mystery and occupation, nor exercise any force, violence or cruelty upon, or towards the body of any, whether young or old (no not in the most difficult and desperate cases) without the advice and consent of such as are skillfull in the same Art, (if such may be had) or at least some of the wisest and gravest then present, and consent of the patient or patients if they be mentis compotis, much less contrary to such advice and consent; upon such severe punishment as the nature of the fact may deserve, which Law nevertheless is not intended to discourage any from all lawfull use of their skill, but rather to incourage and direct them in the right use thereof, and inhibit and restreine the presumptious arrogancy of such as through presidence of their own skill, or any other sinister aspects, dare boldly attempt to exercise any violence upon or towards the bodyes of young and old, one or other, to the prejudice or hazard of the life or limbe of man, woman or child."

The early practitioners of medicine had a fondness for bleeding, and even until within a few years leeches were

generally used, and always kept on hand by apothecaries. The ministers used to bleed and pray in all severe cases. Then there were the barber surgeons, who wielded with equal facility the razor and the lancet, as well as used the jaw-breaking key on the aching teeth of their unfortunate customers.

Many of the early ministers also played the part of apothecary, buying drugs at wholesale and compounding and selling medicines to their parishioners. Small wonder that Cotton Mather, who was not the only kind-hearted New England minister who set up to heal the body as weil as the soul of the entire town, called the union of physc and piety an "Angelical Conjunction."

It cannot be doubted that the early physicians brought with them many old-world medical superstitions, and there is no question but that they were more or less involved in the prevailing errors of the community in which they lived. But, on the whole, their record is a clean one, so far as we can get at it, and where it is questionable, we must remember that there must have been many poorly educated persons among them, and that all must have felt, to some extent, the influence of those sincere and devoted, but unsafe men, the physic-practising clergyman, who often used spiritual means as a substitute for temporal ones, and who looked upon a hysterical patient as possessed by the devil, and who treated a fractured skull by prayers and plasters.

DR. MICHAEL DWINELL.

On a little knoll on the western side of Salem street, in Topsfield, and a few feet north of the driveway leading to the present old Dwinell house, may still be seen the site of the house of Topsfield's first recorded physician, Michael Dwinell. At this point it may be well to mention the fact that Dr. Zerubbabel Endicott, son of Gov. John Endicott, who lived on his father's grant of 1639, which is now owned and occupied by Frank W. Killam, and situated in Boxford, on the Middleton road, a short distance beyond the town line, may have practiced here. He was connected with the Topsfield church, but was excom-

municated Dec. 24. 1693. He is frequently mentioned in records of that early day.

Michael Dwinell was born in Topsfield, December 5, 1670, the second of nine children and the oldest son of Michaell and Mary Dwinell. His house was taxed as a dwelling until 1778, and afterwards was used as a barn. The old well is still in evidence.

Michael, the father, may have come from Scotland or Ireland, though family tradition says he came from France. He is supposed, by some, to have been in Topsfield about 1664, though some records have it that he was a French Huguenot who came to Topsfield "after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685," but his son Michael, the physician, was born in Topsfield in 1670, and by the church records it appears that "Michael Dunnell's" wife was in full communion in 1684. He is also recorded, under date of December 18, 1678, as having taken the "Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity." On October 24, 1672, he purchased from Francis Peabody, for £70, fifty acres of land "lyeing and being in Topsfield . . . on the South Syde of the River called Ipswich River . . . bounded in part by Salem line." In his will of June 29, 1710/11, he gives to his son Dr. Michael "all y^t parcell of Land abounding his house, as he hath improved for himself," and several pieces of meadow. This will was not probated till March, 1717/18, and under date of March 3, 1717/18, his children, beneficiaries under the will, Mary, Michael, Thomas, John and Joseph, regarding their father's will, deposed that "as he did among some other things dubious of exact meaning, we have mutually agreed to divide the land between us in a different manner."

Michael Dwinell, junior, is styled in old deeds as "physician and chirurgeon." What were his medical studies previous to his acquiring his title, are not known at this day. In 1697 he is spoken of as "Mikell Jr.," and not until 1724 does his name appear as Doctor Michael, when it is found in a deed given that year. He might have been studying his profession along the lines of hysterics, when, on March 1, 1691/2, he was on duty at Ipswich

jail, where he was to overlook Sarah Good, accused of witchcraft, it being recorded by the sheriff, "that night I sett a gaud to watch her at my own house, namely, Sam'l Braybrook, Michaell Dunnell of Topsfield and Jonathan Baker."

It is of interest to read a letter from Dr. William Douglas of Boston, written in 1720, regarding fees. He writes: "I have here practice amongst four sorts of People; some families pay me five pounds per annum each for advice, sick or well, some few fee me as in Britain, but for the Native New Englanders I am obliged to keep a daybook of my consultations, advice and Visits, and bring them in a bill; others of the poorer sort I advise and visit without any expectation of fees."

Doctor Dwinell was married at least five times, and family tradition has increased the number to seven, for Esther Richards Dwinel, widow of John, who died Oct. 31, 1837, at the advanced age of 101 years 8 mos. 10 days, maintained that at different times Doctor Michael had seven wives, and when questioned as for which he felt the strongest affection, replied "that he knew no difference."

He married, first, Hannah ——. Her maiden name and the date of her marriage are not known. The children by this marriage were:

Thomas, born Oct. 3, 1693, married Mary Perkins.

Sarah, born June 20, 1697, married Abram Foster of Ipswich in 1718.

Mary, born April 25, 1702, married first, —— Gott; after his death, Oct. 19, 1746, she married, second, Estes Peabody, who died Dec. 31, 1770, without issue. She died Feb. 15, 1772.

Michael, born Jan. 7, 1705/6, married Lucy Towne.

Stephen, born March 5, 1707/8, married Abigail Harris.

Hannah, born March 12, 1709/10, married Jan, 24, 1729, Joshua Bowere, or Bowery, of Marblehead.

Jacob, born Jan. 31, 1714/5, married Kesiah Gould.

Abigail, born Nov. 5, 1719, married Humphrey Deering of Arundel, Me.

He married, second, Dec. 10, 1724, Elisabeth Fisk of Wenham, who died Mar. 26, 1730. Their children were:

Benjamin, born Nov. 10, 1726; married Mary Easty.
Thomas, born Aug. 26, 1729.

He married, third, Elizabeth Cave, who died February, 1737. Their children were:

Samuel, baptized July 18, 1731.
Elizabeth, born Oct, 29, 1733.

On July 6, 1737, he married Charity Cotta of Salem, who died Nov. 8, 1752, and lastly, for his fifth wife, he married, Feb. 1, 1753, widow Mary Balch, "who died suddenly, a very aged woman, upwards of 90 years, April 14, 1774." He had died on December 24, 1761, aged 91 years.

His will, dated July 17, 1753, like that of his father, was signed with his seal and mark. It mentioned his wife Mary, to whom he gives "the use and income of all the lands," and also "one cow;" to his son Michael he leaves 5 shillings, to be paid in 7 years after his own and his wife's death; to his son Stephen, 5 shillings; his son Jacob 5 shillings; his granddaughter, Esther Balch, wife of David Balch, 5 shillings; son Benjamin, house and barn, and land and meadow in Topsfield, and all else, bonds, and books, debts, etc., to his wife. He also mentions his daughters, Sarah Foster, and Mary, Hannah, and Abigail. The inventory of his estate, presented Feb. 1, 1762, amounted to £145. Among other articles mentioned were: Sum Books, 5/1, Two Coats and One Great Coat.

Prior to the practice of Doctor Dwinell, and during his early years, Topsfield may have been served by the famous Doctor Oakes and Doctor Bullivant, both of Salem. John Dunton, the London bookseller, who visited New England in 1686, writes of these men as follows:—

"Dr. Oakes. He is an eminent physitian, and a religious man; at his first coming to a patient he persuades him to put his trust in God, the fountain of health; the want of this hath caused the bad success of most physitians, for they that won't acknowledge God in all their applications, God won't acknowledge them in that success which they might otherwise expect."

"Dr. Bullivant. He is so conversant with the great

variety of nature, that not a drug or simple escapes his knowledge, so that he never practices new experiments upon his patients, except it be in desperate cases, where death must be expelled by death. This also is praise-worthy in him, that to the poor he always prescribes cheap, but wholesome medicines, not curing them of a consumption in their bodies, and sending it into their purses, nor yet directing them to the East Indies to look for drugs, when they may have far better out of their gardens."

DR. AMOS DWINELL.

The second physician in Topsfield was Amos Dwinell, the ninth child of Thomas, who was a brother to Doctor Michael. He was born Mar. 19, 1721/2, the son of Thomas and Dinah (Brimsdill) Dwinell. She was of Lynn, they having married May 23, 1701. Amos was admitted to a full communion in the Topsfield church on Aug. 29, 1742. He married, May 26, 1749, Anna Perkins, at Rowley. There is no record of any children. Under date of April 16, 1748, in a deed of eight acres of land to Uzziel Rea, he styles himself "Amos Dwinell of Topsfield, Physitian." He witnessed a deed in Topsfield in 1746, and is called "physician and doctor." In the assessors' records for the years 1747-8-9, he is styled "Doctor." Just where he received his education is not known. His uncle, Doctor "Michaill," died Dec. 24, 1761, and it is quite probable that the nephew may have been taught by him. Where he practiced after he left Topsfield is not known, but in a letter written by John Adams, dated Oct. 21, 1798, and printed in Gage's History of Rowley, an Amos Dunnell is mentioned, but he is not listed with the regular physicians of Rowley. After his marriage, in 1749, he seems to have disappeared from this vicinity, and it is not known where he died. His father's will was dated June 21, 1747, and in it he bequeathed to Amos all his estate, "both Real and Personal in Topsfield, or anywhere else."

DR. JOSEPH BRADSTREET.

The third physician was Joseph Bradstreet, a grandson of Governor Simon Bradstreet. He was born May 13,

1727, and was the youngest son of Simon and Elizabeth (Capen) Bradstreet. She was the daughter of Rev. Joseph Capen of Topsfield. In a deed dated Oct. 17, 1749, from Joseph to his brother John, he styles himself "Joseph Bradstreet of Salem Village, Student in Physick." It was customary in those early days, as there were no medical schools in Massachusetts, to apprentice young men to some leading practitioner, and in due time the young man went forth with the master's certificate in his pocket, a full-fledged physician. Some obtained a license from the court to practice.

Joseph Bradstreet married, first, February 8, 1770, Abigail Fuller of Middleton. In the intention of marriage, Oct. 29, 1769, he is called "Dr. Joseph." A son Joseph was born in Topsfield on March 26, 1771. She was separated from him by act of the "Governor and Council of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay." October 17, 1771, and he was ordered to pay her £5 yearly, in "four equal quarterly payments." He married, second (published Nov. 16, 1783), widow Hannah Ross of Ipswich, and died in Topsfield Oct. 5, 1790, at the age of 63 years.

His practice did not require all his time, for under date of Sept. 28, 1756, the town of Topsfield voted to "abate the Rate Laid on Doct. Joseph Bradstreet in the year 1755, when he was Keeping School for the town." The town also allowed to Dr. Joseph Bradstreet "two Pounds Eight shillings for one months Keeping School in the year 1756." September 22, 1788, it was voted that "the town agree to Board Doct. Joseph Bradstreet During the time hee shall keep school to pay the town the sum of £3-15-2 which is due to the town from said Bradstreet." He died a pauper.

DR. RICHARD DEXTER.

"During the generation immediately preceding the Revolution the science of medicine in Massachusetts was making progress by slow and steady steps. The bond of union with the clerical profession existing from the earliest days of colonial life had been cut, and there was no longer any practical connection between the two callings.

Medicine had ceased to creep, and was now walking." During this period we find Dr. Richard Dexter practicing in Topsfield.

Doctor Dexter, who began his practice in Topsfield in 1740, and continued till his death, Nov. 25, 1783, was probably the first practitioner of the medical art in Topsfield who devoted his time exclusively to it. He was the son of John and Winnefred (Sprague) Dexter, and was born June 15, 1713, at Malden, Mass. He was of Irish descent, the Dexter family being closely identified with the history of Ireland from the beginning of the 12th century. Richard Dexter, the great grandfather of Doctor Dexter, "with his wife Bridget and three or more children, fled to England from the great Irish massacre of the Protestants, which commenced Oct. 27, 1641. What vessel he came over in is not known, but he was in Boston prior to Feb. 28, 1642, when he became an inhabitant." His father was John Dexter, who died in 1722, and who was for many years a deacon of the church and selectman of the town of Malden, Mass., and commanded a Company of Foot during the reign of George I, receiving his commission from Governor Samuel Shute in 1717. His mother, Winnefred Sprague of Malden, was born in 1673, and died in 1752. Her "reverend son," the Rev. Samuel Dexter of Dedham, says she "was a very pious woman, strictly religious, lived in the fear of God, and died strong in faith and full of comfort and joy."

On June 18, 1741, Doctor Dexter married Mehitabel Putnam, who was then living in Boxford, probably with her sisters, Mrs. Francis and Mrs. Thomas Perley. She was a sister of the heroic General Israel Putnam, and it is said she possessed many similar conspicuous traits of character to those of her brother. She was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Porter) Putnam. They had a daughter, Mehitable, born Nov. 3, 1742, who married Rev. John Treadwell, and died July 3, 1786, at Ipswich. Mrs. Dexter died Sept. 2, 1801, aged 79 years. Doctor Dexter and his wife were admitted to full communion in the Topsfield church on Oct. 31st, 1742.

In writing of Doctor Dexter, the late Nehemiah Cleave-

land says "he had, I believe, the confidence of the people here, not only as a physician, but as a citizen." About 1742, he built as a residence, the house on lower Main Street, now known as the "Agricultural Farm House." It is said that Madam Dexter, who was a fine equestrienne, while the house was in process of construction, rode her horse into the second story by way of an inclined platform that was used in carrying the building supplies. It is also said that a detachment of troops returning from Arnold's Expedition against Quebec, camped under the large pine tree that stood in front of the house, until within a few years.

Doctor Dexter's education previous to his practice in Topsfield is problematical. The available literature of the profession was scanty, and for that reason easily mastered. The doctors had no knowledge of pathology, and but little of anatomy. It must not be forgotten that there were but very few regular graduates of medicine in the country for more than a hundred years after its settlement. In his time there were no medical schools in this country and few had the means or inclination for study abroad. Medical students were frequently "bound out, like apprentices, to their instructors, and were compelled to do all sorts of chores around the house and barn, as well as the professional drudgery. In those days the physicians used to buy their own drugs and prepare their own medicines, and it was the province of the students to pound the bark and spread the plasters, as well as to mix the ointments and make the pills. In short they were to be useful to their employers, as best they might in any way, whether in bleeding patients, pulling teeth, or attending to cases of minor surgery. Sometimes they boarded with their masters, being intimates of their families, and in some cases marrying the daughter of the house. It was customary for physicians in their daily rounds of practce to be accompanied by their scholars, in order to show them the different forms of disease, and to teach them the rules of diagnosis. On their return home the young men would sometimes undergo a form of questioning, which was considered an examination. In this way, with a certain

amount of medical reading, the main supply of doctors was kept up."

"They did not measure the drugs with the precision nowadays,—the asbestos stomachs and colossal minds of our forefathers were much above such petty minuteness." These lax directions accompany old prescriptions, and the patients some how followed them. The amount of medicine to be taken would be "the bigth of a walnut," or "enough to lie on a penknifes point," or "enough to cover a French coin," or "as bigg as a haslenut," or "as great as a charger," or "a pretty draught," and "a pretty bunch of herbs," but the most concise of all directions was when one was told to "take a pretty quantity as often as you please."

Cheerfully these public servants toiled over the hardest roads, in every season and in all weather, to attend rich and poor alike; the country doctor could not choose his patients if he would. A rigid standard of custom gave his services to all who needed them, fees being hardly considered when any one needed medical attendance.

The fees were very modest. Even in Boston, prior to 1782, the ordinary visit was charged at one shilling, six pence to two shillings. Half a dollar was only charged "such as were in high life." In the year 1782, a club of the leading physicians fixed the common fee at fifty cents, in consultation at one dollar, while night visits were doubled. Capital operations in surgery were at five pounds lawful money; medicines were charged at very high prices comparatively.

When the French Acadian family of Michael Dugoy were living in Topsfield, Doctor Dexter was their physician, and in 1759 he charged the town on their account for "13 professional visits, Hystarick pills and powders, 3 purges Stumatick mixter, blisters and purgative powders," all supplied for the magnificent sum of eighteen shillings. There was a Doctor Sawyer of Ipswich who attended this family, and there is a charge for the "French Doctor" amounting to £1. 4. 0. Where he came from is not known.

Tradition has said that Doctor Dexter had in his medi-

cal library, which was purchased intact by Dr. Nehemiah Cleveland, but two volumes, but the inventory of his estate shows "3 Large Books" valued at £1. 2, and "Books and Pamphlets" valued at £1. 16. 0. The inventory of his estate, which amounted to £1240 - 19 - 2, includes "Homestead and 37 acres, also 53 acres of land, Pew in the Meeting House, Riding chair, 2 Great Coats, 4 strait bodied Coats, 8 Jackets and 4 pair Breeches, 12 pair stockings, 1 Beaver Hat, 1 Wig and 1 Desk valued at £3, One large Bible £1, 3 large Books £1. 2, Books and pamphlets £1. 16. 0. Instruments £2. 14. 8, Brass Ink horn, 8s., Druggs and medicines, Bottles and phials containing the same £7. 6. 0. Case of Bottles with medicines £1. 10. 0." In the museum of the Essex Institute is preserved a silver mounted lancet case of shark's skin with the name "R. Dexter" engraved on one end. This case afterwards fell into the hands of Doctor Treadwell of Salem and from him it passed to Doctor Choate who gave it to the Institute.

His body rests in what is now Pine Grove Cemetery. The gravestone is inscribed as follows:

"Erected in memory of Doct. Richard Dexter; who after a course of endearing services, of painful suffering,—supported by the hope which Christianity inspires,—cheerfully departed this life Nov. 25th, 1783, Aet. 71.

"Since deaths our certain lot be life improved in deeds of goodness, and the full pursuit of that which will not fail, a part in Christ. The hope and earnest of eternal bliss."

DR. DAVID NORWOOD.

For the years 1779 to 1782 inclusive, there is record of two doctors. The first of these was Dr. David Norwood, who was taxed in the year 1779, for poll, personal and real estate, "for Baker's Estate." The second was Dr. Caleb Rea, Jr. who was taxed for poll and personal in the years 1781-2. Dr. David Norwood was probably from Lynn, the son of Thomas Norwood, Jr., and born April 16, 1755. His mother was probably Lydia Hawkes. He married Aug. 19, 1778, at Newburyport, Elizabeth, daughter of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Giles) Tarbell. Doctor

Norwood and his wife must have come to Topsfield shortly after their marriage. Their one child Betsey, who married Samuel Prince of Manchester, was born in Topsfield, Dec. 21, 1779. Mrs. Norwood's parents "lived in Danvers until 1779, when they removed to Andover, and shortly after to Merrimack, N. H. Doctor Norwood must have removed with his wife's parents for the records of Merrimack, N. H. show that he was living there about 1780. On Feb. 5, 1781, "Caleb Rea of Topsfield,—physician, in consideration of one hundred pounds . . . paid me by David Norwood of Merrimack in the County of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, physician," transferred land in Danvers that he had purchased of Andrew and Mary Putnam on Nov. 7, 1780. On June 8, 1784, he conveyed to Joseph Leach 1-2 acre of land with dwelling house and barn, and is styled in the deed as David Norwood, "physician of Manchester." In 1794 he is recorded as having "labored excessively" during the "great sickness." He died in Manchester, Mass., May 26, 1808, aged 54 years. The inventory of his estate shows surgical instruments, Art of Surgery, and old books. He probably was the first surgeon who practiced in Topsfield.

DR. CALEB REA, JR.

Dr. Caleb Rea, Jr., was born in Danvers, March 8, 1758, and was the second son of Dr. Caleb and Ruth (Porter) Rea. The elder Dr. Caleb Rea served as surgeon in Col. Jona. Bagley's regiment in the war for the conquest of Canada, in the campaign of 1758, and was in the memorable expedition against Ticonderoga, and died in 1760 at Danvers.

On the 27th of May, 1775, Doctor Rea enlisted as a surgeon. His professional duties, according to family tradition, seem to have been principally on the privateers which were fitted out in Salem and Beverly. Towards the close of the war Doctor Rea was living in Topsfield, just where is not known, and then removed to Ipswich, where his eldest child, Thomas, was born July 11, 1782. Previous to October, 1783, Doctor Rea removed his family to Windham, Maine, for at that session of the Court

of General Sessions he was licensed to retail spirituous liquors in that town. His practice in Maine covered many adjoining towns. He died Dec. 29, 1796.

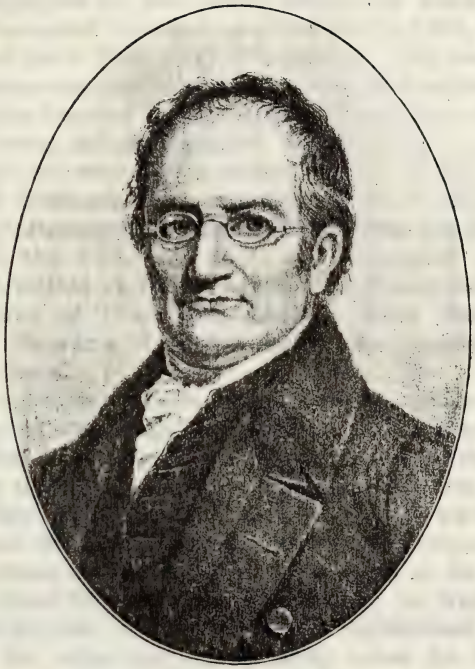
While living in Topsfield, Doctor Rea married, on Oct. 4, 1781, Sarah, daughter of Capt. John and Abigail (Blaney) White of Salem, Mass. Mrs. Rea died Jan. 22, 1836, aged 78 years. Their children were: Thomas, born July 11, 1782, in Ipswich; Sally, born Sept. 27, 1785, in Windham; Mary, born Apr. 14, 1787, in Windham; Caleb, born Apr. 11, 1789, in Windham; Porter, born July 19, 1792, in Windham; Albus, born Feb. —, 1795, in Windham, and was a doctor in Portland, Maine.

DR. NEHEMIAH CLEAVELAND.

In 1783, the year of Dr. Richard Dexter's death, two physicians, Nehemiah Cleaveland and John Merriam, settled in Topsfield. They were both young men, and from that time they divided between them the medical practice of the place, and often extended their visits into the neighboring towns.

Nehemiah Cleaveland was born Aug. 26, 1760, and was the youngest son of Rev. John and Mary (Dodge) Cleveland of Ipswich. He married, first, Oct. 6, 1787, Lucy, daughter of Dr. John and Lucy (Bolles) Manning of Ipswich. She died June 6, 1791, aged 29 years, childless, and he married, second, Experience, daughter of Dr. Elisha and Tamarson (Kimball) (Coit) Lord, of Pomfret, Conn. They had nine children. Her sister, Alethea, married Rev. Asahel Huntington, pastor of the church in Topsfield from 1789 until 1813.

"Nehemiah Cleaveland, at the age of sixteen, was an attendant on his father during the siege of Boston, and afterward enlisted in 1777, and served for nearly twelve months. He saw service at West Point and in New Jersey, and was also at Ticonderoga. At the age of 21, being disappointed in earlier hopes of a college education, he entered on the study of medicine with his brother, Parker, Cleaveland, at Byfield, and later with Dr. John Manning of Ipswich. . . . He entered on practice in Topsfield in 1783, which was neither extensive or lucrative.



NEHEMIAH CLEAVELAND, M. D.

He soon received a commission as Justice of the Peace, an office of some distinction in those days, and was thus led to engage, to a certain extent, in concerns of a civic character. He became known and highly appreciated as a man of good judgment and prompt business habits, and was much employed in the public affairs of town and county." He served the town as selectman in 1801, 1802 and 1803, and from 1809 to 1812 inclusive. He was an ardent politician and was elected by the Federalists to serve as a State Senator in 1811 and 1812, and from 1815 to 1818 inclusive, and then refused longer to be a candidate. In 1814 he was made a session justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, and from 1820 to 1822 he was Associate Justice of the Court of Sessions for Essex County, and the following year was appointed Chief Justice. He retired in 1828, and that year received the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine from Harvard University. He was a Commissioner of the County for over twenty years.

One of the greatest service he rendered the town was the founding of the Topsfield Academy. He also was very prominent in the church of Topsfield, and the church records show that he was held in high regard when it is recorded "that the pastor shall be authorized to associate Dr. Cleaveland with himself in the examination of persons for the admission to the church in such cases as he may be in doubt about himself." Tradition says he was one of the three persons in Topsfield who subscribed to a newspaper; the other two copies being taken by Jacob Towne, Esq., and John and Nathaniel Averill. He was the first postmaster of Topsfield and the president of the Eastern Stage Company. He lived in a house on Main street, now occupied by Charles V. Jackman and considerably remodelled. This house was probably built by Jacob Robinson sometime prior to 1730, Dr. Cleaveland coming into possession about 1795. From Dr. Bentley's Diary, under date of Sept. 16, 1801, it appears that Doctor Cleaveland kept a tavern, for he records that "Dr. Cleveland of Topsfield has converted the mansion house of Porter into a very convenient tavern, below the meeting house in Topsfield."

"Doctor Cleaveland was just six feet in height. His form was erect, dignified, and commanding. Until past thirty he was spare and slender. He afterwards became corpulent, weighing at one time two hundred and sixty-five pounds. Yet such were the height and proportions of his frame that his corpulence never materially injured its symmetry.

"His health, until about fifty years old, was uncommonly firm, but after a severe sickness, he never regained his former firm health, and continued to be subject to attacks of severe pain and confinement, and scarcely ever rode without feeling more or less uneasiness. A sulkey, which he used constantly for the last twenty-five years, was the only vehicle which he could ride with tolerable comfort."

In practice he is described as cautious and careful, and as never undertaking difficult surgical operations. "He was punctual in attending to calls, and kind and cheerful in the sick room. He possessed in a high degree the qualities which ensure to the physician the confidence and attachment of his patients. Amid the strife of parties and the collision of rival interests, a man so decided and active could not be without opponents. These he had, and bitter ones."

The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of June, 1839, says of Doctor Cleaveland: "During the fifty years of his practice in Topsfield, few days probably passed when his opinions or assistance were not sought in some matter aside from his profession. There are few occurrences or questions incident to common life in regard to which he had not formed an opinion or could not give judicious advice."

Dr. A. L. Peirson of Salem, writing of Doctor Cleaveland in the Medical and Surgical Journal, notes that "he was a much respected member of the Essex South District Medical Society. No man among us set a better example of professional integrity and honor. The few who could boast of his friendship will long remember with pleasure the virtuous and kind-hearted old man, whose influence was uniformly and efficiently exerted in

support of good order and the true advancement of society." He died Feb. 26, 1837, in his 77th year.

DR. JOHN MERRIAM.

Dr. John Merriam was the son of John and Sarah (Jones) Merriam and was born in Concord, Mass., Aug. 10, 1758 and removed to Topsfield in December, 1783. He studied medicine in Charlton, Mass., and married Hannah Jones of that town. He was licensed to practice by the Medical Association of Worcester County. On March 31, 1784, he bought the house now owned by Philip S. Palmer. Twelve years later he purchased land opposite his residence, and erected the two story house now standing at the junction of Haverhill and Ipswich streets. In the old house were born Doctor Merriam's three children: Royal Augustus Merriam, who was born Jan. 30, 1786, and was his father's successor in the practice of physic; Frederick Jones Merriam, born Dec. 8, 1788, who also lived in Topsfield; and Almira, born Jan. 25, 1791, who died unmarried in 1839 at her brother's home. Mrs. Merriam died in the new house Feb. 20, 1806, aged 43 years. On Sept. 18, 1808 Doctor Merriam married, second, Miss Mary Stiles of Topsfield. He died of consumption Nov. 21, 1817 at the age of 59 years. His widow Mary died at Boxford, Dec. 24, 1825, aged 62 years.

The only public office he held was that of selectman for the year 1787. He was an old time physician with a considerable practice. It is said of him that he "was well prepared for the work of his profession, as the times then were. His medical library was large for those days. From entries made in his own handwriting in books of his library, it would appear that his studies preparatory to the study of medicine were considerable, and that he had some knowledge of Latin. There is no word of his school days, but it may be presumed that he had the advantages that other young men enjoyed. He might have received instruction from an educated man, before taking up his medical studies. From what we learn of him, it is certain that he stood high as a medical practitioner and that he had the respect of his patrons and of the community in

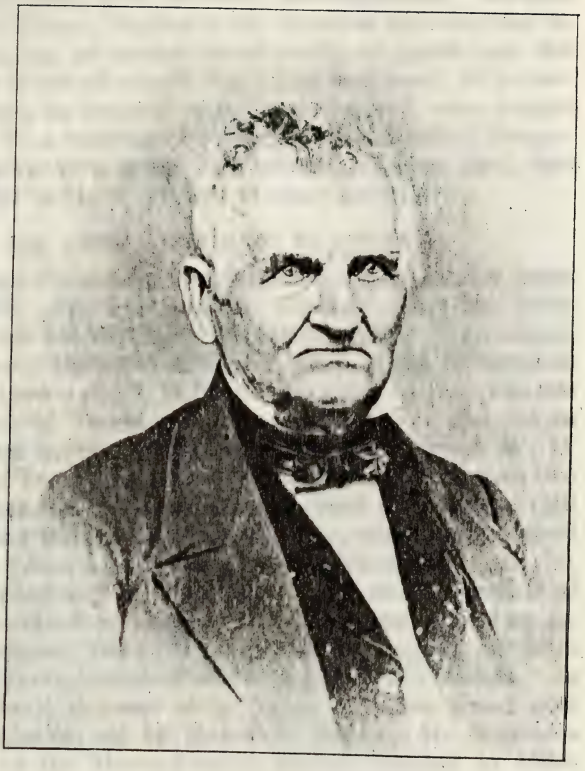
general. He had a large practice that extended into the adjoining towns. As was often the case, in those days with the country physician, he gave some attention to the cultivation of the land. He acquired property and left a considerable estate, and a name that has been handed down with respect."

In the year 1825, a Dr. Joseph Field was taxed for a poll. Nothing further can be found concerning him, and he must be considered as a wandering physician.

DR. JEREMIAH STONE.

Dr. Jeremiah Stone was born Nov. 2, 1798, in Marlborough, N. H. He began practice in Topsfield, Jan. 6, 1826, and continued for about twelve years. He was the son of Shubael and Polly (Rogers) Stone. Dr. Stone graduated at the Dartmouth Medical College in December, 1825, and came immediately to Topsfield. He was the first doctor in Topsfield who received his education at a Medical School. Finding that a country practice with it, long and tiresome drives was impairing his health, he removed to New Bedford and thence in 1864 to Provincetown, Mass., where he remained until his death April 23, 1875, with the exception of two years spent at Chatham, Mass. He was one of the incorporators of the Topsfield Academy, and was town treasurer for the year 1834. He married Feb. 28, 1828, Esther, daughter of Moses and Esther (Dwinell) Wildes. They had Esther Wildes, born Dec. 16, 1828; Moses Wildes, born July 7, 1836; and Susan Alzea, born February 28, 1834.

"In town affairs, he ever took an active interest, endeavoring to build up the place and render it truly prosperous. Foremost in all good movements, he cordially espoused the cause of anti-slavery in its earliest days, when it was unpopular to be an abolitionist. He was an ardent supporter of temperance, and an earnest worker in the Congregational church, of which he had been a member since 1814. He was an honorary member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, which he joined in 1831. He was intolerant of quackery in every form and strict in his views of professional etiquette. Prompt in decision and



ROYAL AUGUSTUS MERRIAM, M. D.

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self-reliant in the emergencies of his profession, he inspired and retained confidence in his skill. Though often abrupt in his manners, yet beneath was a warm heart that beat in sympathy with the needy and oppressed. Earnest in his convictions, decided in his opinions and cheerful in his disposition, he carried the elasticity of youth into the last years of his advanced life. Tall and erect, of powerful presence, he inspired with hope the sick who sought his aid. To a naturally buoyant spirit was added the sustaining power of a strong and earnest religious faith that made belief to him a bright and clear reality."

DR. JOSEPH CUMMINGS BATCHELDER.

Dr. Joseph Cummings Batchelder succeeded Doctor Stone about 1838. He was born in Topsfield, May 10, 1809, and was the son of Capt. Jacob and Mary (Cummings) Batchelder. He married Nov. 9, 1837, Anna Wellington, who was born June 9, 1816, the daughter of Rev. Charles Wellington of Templeton, Mass. He began practice in Lynn, after having studied medicine with Dr. J. W. D. Osgood of Templeton, and remained there for less than two years when he removed to Topsfield and stayed till 1850, going then to Cambridge, Mass., where he practised for seven years, and from 1857 till his death April 26, 1885 he practised in Templeton. He was a member of the legislature from Topsfield in 1846 and served as assistant surgeon, from Mar. 1, 1862 to August, 1862, in the 25th Massachusetts Volunteers, in North Carolina. In 1843 he built the two story house on Main street now owned and occupied by Merrill B. Bailey. He became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1838. Mrs. Batchelder died in Templeton, of pneumonia, April 26, 1885. They had three daughters.

DR. ROYAL AUGUSTUS MERRIAM.

Dr. Royal Augustus Merriam,* the son of Dr. John and Hannah (Jones) Merriam, was the next physician. He was born Jan. 30, 1786, and entering Dartmouth College was graduated in 1808. He studied medicine at the Dartmouth Medical School, and received his degree of

*See Topsfield Historical Collections, Vol. 4, p. 120.

M. B. in 1811, and M. D. in 1820. In 1832, he became a member of the Mass. Medical Society. In January, 1812, he commenced the practice of medicine in Middleton, where he met with considerable success, especially in cases of typhoid fever. The next year he returned to Topsfield. His short stay in Middleton is easily accounted for by the fact that his father was in failing health, and had been somewhat of an invalid for several years. Here he continued in the practice of his profession from 1813 to 1823, when, looking for a larger field of action, he went to Marblehead where he established himself and remained nine years. Returning to his native town in 1832, he occupied the house on Main street where he afterward lived. "His library was large and well supplied with the standard works. Surgery was his specialty." Doctor Merriam married Mar. 12, 1839, at Newburyport, Adeline, born Mar. 20, 1806, daughter of Nathaniel Marsh of Newburyport. Their children were: Sidney Augustus, born Mar. 11, 1841, who studied medicine and was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1861; and Arthur Marsh, who was born April 12, 1843.

Doctor Merriam "was interested in public affairs, and was active as a public man, holding offices of trust in the town, and as a member of associations, industrial, philanthropic, and social. He was often called to serve the town, probably no citizen more often, in various trusts. He held the offices of Selectman, Overseer of the Poor, School Teacher, member of the School Committee and Superintendent of Schools, and was selected to serve on committees in the more important crises of town affairs. He was elected for twenty-two years a member of the School Committee, and probably always was its chairman, excepting when he served as Superintendent." He was a magistrate of the town, an incorporator of the Academy, and was a member of the Essex Agricultural Society from 1821. He died Nov. 13, 1864.

During a part of the time of Doctor Merriam's practice in Topsfield, Dr. George Whitefield Sawyer of Boxford was in friendly competition with him. Doctor Sawyer was born in Ipswich in 1770, and married Polly Killam of Middleton in 1800. He subsequently settled in Box-

ford as a physician, on the farm known as the "Sawyer farm," on the road to Middleton, near the present residence of Frank W. Killam. "He was acknowledged to be a good physician for the times; and his natural bluntness of speech oftimes amused his patients. After honoring his profession for many years by a life of integrity and trust, he died March 23, 1855, at the age of 85 years."

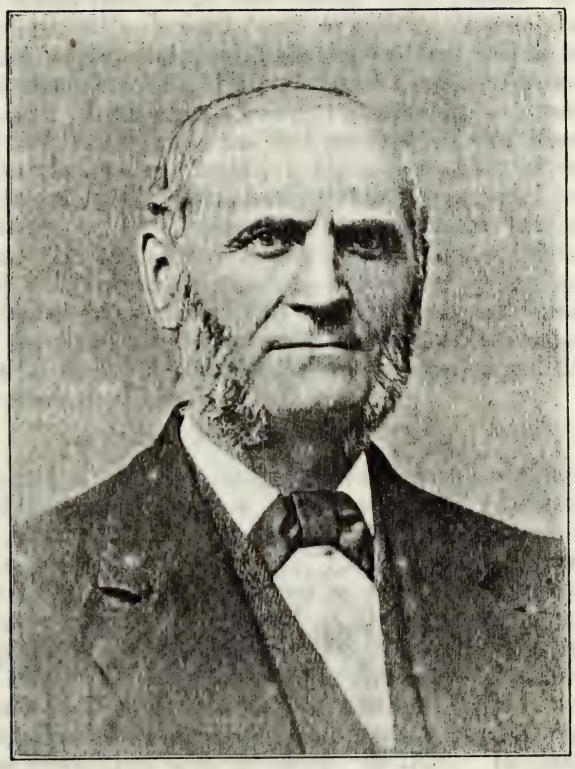
DR. CHARLES PARKER FRENCH.

After Doctor Merriam was well along in years, other physicians came to Topsfield. The first of these was Dr. Charles Parker French, who was born Nov. 27, 1823, in Lyndeborough, N. H., the son of Isaac P. and Clarissa (Barnes) French. He was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1847, and came to Boxford, and "secured board with the late Major William Lowe, and commenced practice there in 1848." He continued his practice in Boxford for nearly two years, and in 1849 came to Topsfield. During the years 1850 and 1851, he lived in the old "Shepard house," which formerly stood just beyond the present residence of Augustus W. Smith. Doctor French married, May 1, 1850, Mary S., daughter of Oliver T. and Sarah A. (Towne) Peabody of Boxford. She died Feb. 10, 1871, in Denver, Colo. He was a large, fleshy man, and was "much liked for his humorous disposition. His medical knowledge was deemed sufficient for good practice." He remained in Topsfield four years, and, in May, 1854, went to Virden, Illinois, afterwards moving to Denver, Colorado, where he died Feb. 23, 1904. He became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1852.

DR. DAVID CHOATE.

The next physician was Dr. David Choate, son of David and Elizabeth (Wade) Choate, who was born in Essex, Mass., Nov. 27, 1828. He married, Jan. 1, 1856, Susan Elizabeth, daughter of Philip and Susan (Stanley) Kimball, who was born in Ipswich Feb. 24, 1829, and died in Salem, Mass. They had two children: Helen Stanley, born Feb. 5, 1858; and Susan Elizabeth, born Sept. 29, 1862.

Doctor Choate was educated in the schools of his native town and at Phillips Academy, Andover. He commenced the study of medicine with Prof. Dixie Crosby, M. D., of the Dartmouth Medical College, and subsequently entered the Harvard Medical School, from which he was graduated in 1854. When attending his last lectures, Dr. Choate Burnham of Hamilton, Mass., urged him to settle in Hamilton. He practiced in that town from October, 1853, to April, 1854, going back and forth on the train to his studies at Boston. While in Hamilton, William Cleaveland and John Wright of Topsfield called and urged him to come to Topsfield, as Doctor French was planning to go to Illinois, and Doctor Batchelder having gone to Templeton, Topsfield had only Dr. R. A. Merriam, who, although well advanced in years and retired from active practice, still gave his assistance in troublesome cases, which he continued to do till his death. Doctor Choate accordingly went to Topsfield in April, 1854, and boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey Balch. Doctor Choate occupied one of the front rooms as an office. He had an ordinary carriage at first, but thinking a gig better suited for his practice in Middleton, Boxford and Linebrook, he had one built for him by Thomas K. Leach, the Topsfield wheelwright. After his marriage in 1856, he moved into the house yet standing on the corner of Main and Summer streets, and now owned by Mrs. Ephraim Peabody. He frequently called into consultation Dr. Cox of Salem, who, after a time, urged him to settle in that city. Although Doctor Choate liked Topsfield, and the citizens were highly satisfied with his professional services, yet he was unused to the hardships suffered during the winter season while on long drives, andso welcomed a chance to go to Salem, removing there in June, 1857. At this time he charged seventy-five cents a visit for calls in Topsfield, and also often went to Boxford for that sum. After he had decided to leave Topsfield, the citizens offered him an increase of 25% on the charge for his visits as an inducement to remain. Doctor Choate had many applicants for his practice, finally selling to Dr. Justin Allen of Hamilton. He still lives in Salem,



JUSTIN ALLEN, M. D.

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where "he has had a very extensive practice, and by his kindliness, his professional skill and fidelity, he has gained a strong hold upon and a warm place in the hearts of those in whose families he had visited. Dr. Choate is a most indefatigable worker, and cheerfully responds to many calls, day or night, when he knows there will be no financial remuneration. He is known as the 'Beloved Physician.'" He became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1853, and is a member of the Essex South District Medical Society. He is a member of the Essex Congregational Club, and for thirty-four years has been a deacon of the Tabernacle Congregational Church of Salem. He has served on the School Board. During the Civil War he was examining surgeon for volunteers and drafted men, and from 1863 to 1869 was examining surgeon for pensions. He was on the staff of the Salem Hospital for fourteen years following its organization. He lives on Norman street in Salem.

DR. JUSTIN ALLEN.

Dr. Justin Allen* was born in Hamilton, Mass., Sept. 29, 1826, and was the son of Ezekiel and Sally (Roberts) Allen. After attending the schools of his native town, he studied at Williston Seminary, East Hampton, Mass., 1845-6, and in 1847 was enrolled at Rockingham Academy, Hampton Falls, N. H., and at Hampton Academy. In the year 1848 he was again at Williston Seminary, and in 1849-1850, was back at Hampton Academy. Entering Dartmouth College, he left in the spring of 1851, and continued his studies at Brown University, graduating from that institution with an A. B. in 1852. In 1853-1854 he attended lectures at the Berkshire Medical Institute, and in 1855 the medical lectures at the Tremont Medical School. In 1856 he received the degree of M. D. at Harvard, and in June, 1857, came to Topsfield, buying the practice of Dr. David Choate. He continued his practice here and in the neighboring towns till 1894, when he retired from active professional work, enjoying in the next few years several trips abroad. He died, unmarried, Nov. 5, 1908, aged 82 years.

*See Topsfield Historical Collections, Vol. 14, page 148.

When he first came to Topsfield he lived in the house now owned and occupied by Henry H. Roberts, afterwards removing to the house on Main street now owned by John H. Towne, where he lived eighteen years, then removing to the George P. Dow house at the corner of Main and Prospect streets, and lastly moving into the adjoining house, which he had purchased and where he lived till his death. He became a member of the Massachusetts Medcal Society in 1859, retiring as an active member in 1892. He was the first President of the Topsfield Historical Society, and continued as such until his death.

DR. WILLIAM DUDLEY HILL.

Early in 1881, Dr. William Dudley Hill, a native of Lebanon, Maine, settled in Topsfield. He was born in 1858, the son of Orrin T. and Mary E. (Foss) Hill, and married, June 1, 1881, at Kingston, N. H., Kitty Hartwell Pearson, born in New Bedford, Mass., daughter of Mark R. and Kate (Hartwell) Pearson. Doctor Hill was graduated from the medical department of the University of Vermont in 1879. He lived in the house on School avenue now owned by Alphonso T. Merrill, but remained in Topsfield only a few years, removing to Paterson, N. J., then to Maryland, or Virginia, and to New Hampshire, where he conducted a sanitarium, and is still living. He also practiced dentistry, having a chair in the press-room now occupied by A. T. Merrill.

DR. GEORGE MERRILL RANDALL.

Dr. George Merrill Randall came to Topsfield, Oct. 22, 1889, and was associated with Dr. Justin Allen. He was born at Vassalboro, Maine, Mar. 20, 1863, and was the son of George LeBarron Randall, a native of Barnstable, Mass., (who received the degree of M. D. at Maine Medical School, Bowdoin College, in 1842, and practised in Maine for thirty years), and Caroline Matilda (Sturgis) Randall, who was a native of Maine. Doctor Randall received the degree of M. D. at the Maine Medical School, Bowdoin College, in 1889, and later went to the Boston City Hospital where he was Surgical House Officer. After selling his practice in Topsfield he went to Augusta, Me.,

where he practiced for seven years, and contracted pulmonary tuberculosis which sent him into the mountains of California for one year. After regaining his health he returned to Augusta and practiced five years, and then removed to Lowell, Mass., where he is now located. He holds a commission as 1st Lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps, U. S. A. He married June 7, 1893, Alice Martha Hawes, daughter of Isaiah and Lucy (Hatch) Hawes. They have no children.

DR. THOMAS LINCOLN JENKINS.

Dr. Randall sold his practice to Dr. Thomas Lincoln Jenkins, who was born Oct. 10, 1866, in Chelsea, Mass., the son of Loyal Lovejoy, of Portsmouth, N. H. and Mary Jane (Norton) Jenkins, a native of Addison, Maine. He married June 18, 1902, Lucy Maud Garbutt of Revere, Mass., daughter of Andrew and Lucy Ann (Dunderdale) Garbutt. They have one child, Mary Lucy Jenkins, born May 10, 1908. Doctor Jenkins, after graduating from the Revere public schools, and the Charlestown High School, attended the Harvard Medical School, graduating in the class of 1890. On November 1, 1890 he came to Topsfield. In 1891, he became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He was Assistant Surgeon in the 8th Mass. Inf. U. S. Vols. in the Spanish-American War and is now Major and Surgeon of the 2nd Brigade, Mass. Vol. Militia.

DR. BYRON SANBORN.

Dr. Byron Sanborn, the son of James Stanlius and Mary Ella (Yeaw) Sanborn, was born in Loudon Centre, N. H., August 13, 1874. He was graduated with the degree of A. B. from Dartmouth College in 1897, and from Dartmouth Medical School in February, 1900, he received the degree of M. D. After studying in Boston and New York Hospitals he came to Topsfield, Sept. 28, 1901. In 1909 he became a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society and also the American Medical Society. On Sept. 25, 1901, he married Mary Rebecca, daughter of Edward Pickering and Emma (Glover) Leavitt of Concord, N. H. They have one child, Victor Paul, born August 2, 1903.

NATIVES OF TOPSFIELD WHO BECAME PHYSICIANS BUT PRACTICED ELSEWHERE.

DR. NATHANIEL BRADSTREET.

Dr. Nathaniel Bradstreet,* the son of Henry and Abigail (Porter) Bradstreet, was born in Topsfield, Oct. 4, 1771. He was fitted for college by Rev. Asahel Huntington, and entered Dartmouth College in 1791, but after remaining there a year, he entered Harvard from which college he was graduated in 1795, afterwards studying medicine with Dr. James Thacher of Plymouth and Dr. E. A. Holyoke of Salem. In the autumn of 1798, he was appointed chief surgeon of the sloop-of-war Merrimac, Moses Brown of Newburyport, captain, and made several voyages to the West Indies in that vessel. In February, 1800 he resigned his commission and shortly afterward commenced the practice of medicine in Newburyport where he continued till his death. He became prominent in his profession and was highly esteemed as a physician and surgeon. At the time of his death he was a Councillor of the Massachusetts Medical Society. He died at Newburyport Oct. 6, 1828. He married Mary Crombie by whom he had eight children.

DR. ISRAEL BALCH.

Dr. Israel Balch, the son of David, 3d and Sarah (Peabody) Balch, was born in Topsfield Sept. 14, 1788. He fitted for college with the Rev. Asahel Huntington, entering Dartmouth when he was eighteen years old. "He received no aid from his father to defray his educational expenses. His grandfather Peabody made him a present of $450 which was all the pecuniary aid he had, that he did not earn himself." He was graduated in the class of 1811. After graduating, he taught school a year in Topsfield, and a year and a half in the Academy at Amesbury. After studying medicine with Dr. Nathan Smith of Hanover, N. H. and three years with Doctor French of Amesbury, he

*See also Cleaveland's Bicentennial Address, Appendix 9; and Topsfield Historical Collections, Vol. 12, page 143.

began to practice in Salisbury, in 1814, and continued till 1820, when he removed to Amesbury, where he resided and practiced, until his death July 7, 1858. He was married at Amesbury in 1814, to Miss Nancy Goodwin, who was born Oct. 12, 1793 and died at Amesbury in 1865. They had four children : Mara, born July 20, 1816 ; died unmarried, Aug. 29, 1895 ; Israel, born July 20, 1817, died May 20, 1821 ; Israel Daniel Perkins, born June 18, 1822 ; and David Lowell Dearborn, born Oct. 13, 1828.

"He was a very successful practitioner of medicine and surgery. For seven years he was surgeon of a regiment. He had the largest medical library in Amesbury or vicinity. Many young men sought his office for instruction in medicine and surgery, navigation and higher mathematics. He wrote and delivered several lectures on scientific subjects. He was gifted with a strong scientific mind. He took out several patents and made some very peculiar clocks. In contriving and manufacturing surgical instruments, he exhibited much ingenuity. He was a strong advocate of temperance and a firm abolitionist."

DR. JOSIAH LAMSON.

Dr. Josiah Lamson, the son of Josiah and Marcy (or Mercy) (Perkins) Lamson, was born in Topsfield, Aug. 15, 1789. He was fitted for college at Bradford and Dummer Academies, his preceptor at the latter school being Benjamin Allen, LL. D. In 1814 he was graduated at Harvard College. The following three years he spent in the study of medicine with Thomas Kittredge, M. D. of Andover, Mass. He also attended the medical lectures of the Harvard College Medical School in 1816 and 1817, and in the autumn of 1817 received the degree of M. D. from the Censors of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Soon after he was invited to Chebacco (now Essex) by a committee of the parish, and began the practice of medicine there in 1818, and continued until March, 1861. He married, first, Sept. 9, 1824 Rebecca Sargent, who died Mar. 22, 1837, aged thirty years. On April 30, 1839, he married, second, Betsy Dodge. He had two children : Alvin and Mary J., and died April 16, 1870, greatly respected.

DR. ELISHA HUNTINGTON.

Dr. Elisha Huntington, the son of Rev. Asahel and Althea (Lord*) Huntington, was born in Topsfield, Apr. 9, 1796. He was fitted for college under the direction of his father, who for nearly twenty-five years, was the devout and faithful minister of Topsfield and who made it a part of his occupation to fit young men for college. He entered Dartmouth College at the age of fifteen, and was graduated in the class of 1815. He studied medicine with Doctor Bradstreet of Newburyport, and attended medical lectures at Yale College, taking his degree in 1823. In 1824 he went to Lowell, Mass., and entered at once upon a career of professional and official duties such as it is rarely the fortune of one man to experience. He was eminent as a physician and enjoyed a large practice. While Lowell was yet a town, he served two years as a member of the school committee. After its incorporation as a city he served three years as a member of the Common Council and two terms of two years each as a member of the school committee. He was three times elected as Alderman, and in 1839, during his second year as president of the Common Council, he was elected to fill the office of Mayor, made vacant by the death of Hon. Luther Lawrence only a few weeks after entering upon his second term of office. He was re-elected to fill that office in 1839, 1840, 41, 44, 45, 52, 56, 57, 58. In 1853 he was elected Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts. For two years he was president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and also for two years served as president of the District Medical Society, having held all the minor offices of that society. He was a most active member of the Middlesex Mechanics Association, and was chairman of the lecture committee for several years. He married May 31, 1825, Hannah Hinckley, daughter of Joseph and Deborah (Freeman) Hinckley of Marblehead, Mass. She died Sept. 19, 1859. Dr. Huntington died Dec. 13, 1865. Their children were : James Freeman, born Sept. 6, 1826, married May 30, 1848, Ellen Sophrona Whipple; Francis

*She was the daughter of Dr. Elisha Lord of Pomfret, Conn., a distinguished physician.

Cleaveland, born June 3, 1831; Mary Hinckley, born Sept. 3, 1838, married Feb. 6, 1861, Josiah Parsons Cooke Jr., Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy, Harvard University; Isaac Mansfield, born Dec. 15, 1836, died Oct. 12, 1837; William Reed, born Sept. 20, 1838.

DR. HUMPHREY GOULD.

Dr. Humphrey Gould, the son of Zaccheus, jr. and Anna (Brown) Gould, was born in Topsfield, July 3, 1797. Doctor Gould, after graduating at Williams College established himself at Danvers, and after remaining a short time, removed to Rowe, Mass., where for about fifty years he was an honored and influential member of the community—a type of the "beloved physician." He was in close social relations with most of the leading professional men in Western Massachusetts and was "universally respected and esteemed, alike for his high moral tone, his extensive knowledge, retentive memory and sound judgment."

He married June 11, 1827, Electa Haynes, who was born June 5, 1800 and died Aug. 12, 1878. Doctor Gould died Oct. 8, 1874. Their children were: Electa Haynes, born Aug. 15, 1828, married, 1854, Wm. A. Hicks; Hannah, born Dec. 18, 1836, married, 1863, Edw. Wright, and died in 1875.

DR. JOHN AUGUSTUS LAMSON.

Dr. John Augustus Lamson, the son of John and Priscilla (Averill) Lamson, was born in Topsfield, March 3, 1831. His early education was received in the local schools, and Phillips Academy, Andover Mass. In 1853 he was graduated from Dartmouth College, and began the study of medicine with the late Charles Haddock, M. D. of Beverly, Mass., then entered the Boylston and Tremont Medical Schools, Boston. He was graduated March 12, 1856, from the medical department of Harvard University Immediately on receiving his medical degree, he was appointed one of the physicians of the "Boston Dispensary," which office he held for three years. In 1861 he was appointed Examiner for Volunteers by Surgeon-General Dale.

In 1862 he was appointed surgeon of the 42d Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, and went into camp, but resigned his commission before the regiment left for the seat of war on account of impaired health from the exposure of camp life. (All the officers and three companies of this regiment were captured on arriving at Galveston, Texas, and the surgeon who was Dr. Lamson's successor was held in close confinement till released by death.) He was immediately re-appointed by Surgeon-General Dale as Examiner for Volunteers. In 1863 he was appointed Assistant Examining Surgeon under the "Conscription Act." This office he held until the end of the "draft." During the war he examined, of volunteers, conscripts and substitutes, more than 12,000 men. In September, 1863, he was appointed the physician, chief in charge, of the "Discharged Soldiers' Home," from which he resigned four years later.

He was a member of the Boston School Board ten years, ending 1871, in which year he was elected a member of the Legislature, and re-elected the following year, representing the wealthiest ward of the city. The year 1873 he spent in European travel, visiting many of the hospitals in London, Dublin, Vienna, Paris and Berlin, and then extended his trip to Constantinople and the East. In 1880 he was appointed Chief Medical Examiner of the "Equitable Life Assurance Society," for Boston and Eastern Massachusetts. He retired from general practice in 1893. On Oct. 18, 1876, he married Mary Elizabeth Whitcher of Milton, Mass., the daughter of Hon. Joseph Batchelder and Barbara Ann (Horton) Whitcher.

DR. CHARLES TREADWELL ISRAEL REA.

Dr. Charles Treadwell Israel Rea, son of Israel and Eliza Ann M. (Whitcomb) Rea, was born in Topsfield, Dec. 10, 1835. He entered the Harvard Medical School in 1856 remaining there three years, and graduating in 1859 from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. He first practised at Manchester, Mass. for two years and then removed to San Francisco, Cal., where he has since resided. He married Martha R., daughter of Dr. Asa Story of Manchester, Mass., by whom he had no children.

DR. GEORGE WILLIAM PERKINS.

Dr. George William Perkins, the son of Caleb Kimball and Mary Lucinda (Peabody) Perkins, was born in Topsfield, Jan. 6, 1860 ; fitted for college at Phillips Exeter Academy ; was admitted to Harvard College June 30, 1879 and passed the year 1879-80 with the class of 1883 as a freshman. He skipped the sophomore year, and joined the class of 1882, as a junior in the fall of 1880, and graduated with the class. The first two years after graduation he held the position of assistant in biology at Harvard, and at the same time pursued his studies at the Harvard Medical School till June, 1885; in 1886 receiving the degree of M. D. On June 1, 1885 he was appointed for the usual term of eighteen months a member of the house staff on the surgical side of the Boston City Hospital, and at the conclusion of this service he accepted a position as division surgeon in the medical department of the Union Pacific Railway, with headquarters at Ogden, Utah. He spent two months at Denver to familiarize himself with railway medical work, reaching Ogden in September, 1886 where he resided till his death Nov. 18, 1908.

He had charge of the Company's Hospital, located at Ogden, for the western district of the Medical Department which comprised about fifteen hundred miles of the Union Pacific System in Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Utah, along which are scattered several assistant surgeons who send all serious cases of injury or sickness to Ogden for treatment. He was also surgeon for the Southern Pacific Railway at Ogden. In addition to his railway work and private practice he did a large amount of consultation and operative surgical work for other doctors. He was president of the Utah State Medical Society and a vice-president of the Harvard Medical Alumni Association.

He married at Worcester, Mass., Sept. 20, 1887, Nellie A. Dunton. Their children were : William Albert, born March 30, 1889; George Leslie, born April 1, 1890, died April, 1909 ; Helen, born April 18, 1893 ; Arthur, born June 14, 1895.

EARLY TOPSFIELD SCHOOL REPORTS.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT A MEETING HELD MARCH 4, 1898.

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

The first printed report of the school committee issued by the town of Topsfield, was for the year ending March, 1839. This was in accordance with statute provision recently enacted. Dr. Royal A. Merriam was chairman of the committee and probably prepared the report.

After introductory explanation, appears the following: "The Committee have endeavored to follow the statute as nearly as circumstances would allow, by visiting and exercising such supervision as the law enjoins. In these visits the majority of the Committee have been present at the commencement and close of each school and once or more about the middle of each term, as were between three and four months in length, making their visits about once a month. The town, not districted, maintained four Schools from six to eight months each in the year, at an expense of five hundred dollars for the whole. The branches taught are Reading, Writing, Spelling, Defining, Geography, Arithmetic, Grammar, History, and Philosophy."

The "Summer Schools" were taught by "females," and the committee state that "no complaints of dissatisfaction" have come to their knowledge. The schools, four in number, were taught by Misses Ruth Batchelder, Mary P. Lamson, Harriet Towne and Mary P. Towne, all natives of the town. Emerson Gould taught the winter term at the Centre school which "was not so fully attended as in years previous, there being a private Female School kept in the vicinity." "There was no marring or injury done to the buildings, not even a pane of glass broken for the Winter."

The term was sixteen weeks; whole number of scholars 79, with an average attendance of 56. The North school was kept by Nehemiah Cleaveland Bradstreet and the East school by Seabury T. Witt, "a gentleman whose literary and moral qualifications were undoubted," but who proved not to be a success as "there was a failure in a perfect control over the school." John G. Hood presided over the exercises at the South school which "excelled in writing." "The several schools have been provided with a Black-board, almost a *sine qua non* in every school. Indeed, there are few schools at this day without one; they are considered indispensible." "A few new books have been furnished at the expense of the town, to the amount of six or eight dollars." The committee suggested the propriety of engaging a "Female Teacher" for the Centre school, to aid the "Male Teacher" when the attendance should exceed fifty scholars, and they also recommended that more money be expended on the summer schools as they were then more largely attended than in the winter.

The report for the succeeding year is well written and probably was from the pen of J. C. Batchelder. The duties of parents were discussed and one paragraph reads as follows: "A few words concerning the policy of locating school houses in bye and unpleasant places, would not be inopportune. Children are beings prone to observation, and are not so insensible to the 'sublime and beautiful' as many seem to imagine; neither are they wanting in attention to personal comfort and convenience. Every one may perceive that a warm, pleasant and well furnished room has more attractions than one of an opposite character, and from a knowledge of this fact it is desirable that more regard should be had to the situation and condition of school houses. Every house should have a play ground in its immediate vicinity, and much more attention should be bestowed on the orderly arrangement and finish of school rooms; in fine, a little care and expense would soften the too often repulsive aspect of our school houses, which in their present condition have a very slight resemblance to Minerva's Temple of the Sciences."

"The North School, under the direction of Mr. Robert Gould, like the times, appeared to be 'sadly out of joint.' Very little dependence could be placed on the children's attendance. A majority of them made their appearance or not, as circumstances favored or opposed; and until parents awake to a sense of duty to their children, the best regulated efforts of the teacher cannot be successful."

The report for the year of 1840-41 was, in the main, a philosophical oration on life and morals. Little information is given as to the progress made in the several schools during the year, but the school buildings are held up for inspection. "Our school houses can hardly escape the well merited term of *nuisance;* the inhabitants all lament their condition, but nothing is done to improve them. It is the deliberate opinion of your committee, that not one of them is suitable for the use to which they are appropriated—in execrable repair, badly situated, gloomy, dirty and old. Few are there among us who can point to our temples of learning and exclaim, in the language of the Roman matron, 'these are our jewels.'"

For some reason, perhaps expense, no report was printed for the succeeding year, but the year following, 1842-3, is particularly complete, showing the date of each visit made to each school with the conditions existing. On July 15, the scholars at the Centre school were found to be "in rather a languid state." The report fails to state what the temperature was at that time, but probably the Farmer's Almanac for that year did not read, "about this time expect snow." August 14th the scholars at the Centre school were "censured for idleness and disorder." The whole number of scholars attending at this time was 79 and the teacher was paid the munificent sum of $10.25 per month. The committee decided that the erection of a new meeting house in the immediate vicinity of the school house "ought to be considered an extenuating circumstance" in the matter of disorder in the school, but the opinion is expressed that the "disposition of the teacher was too amiable and indulgent" and she was "better qualified to be an usher than a principal in a large school." During the winter term, which was taught by Humphry

Balch, the whole attendance was one hundred—but the average attendance was much below owing to the opening of the Topsfield Academy under Edmund F. Slafter. School libraries were introduced into the various schools this year and the committee suggested bringing all the schools together on examination day, advocating the plan as a stimulus to greater effort among the scholars.

During the winter term at the South school, two of the larger boys headed a rebellion against the teacher, of which the report gives an extended account saying that "glass was broken and some loss of hair suffered." The boys were suspended but the infection spread through the neighborhood and after several conferences between the parents and the school committee, the matter was taken before the town at the annual meeting where, in the language of the report, it "was very justly frowned upon and the article passed over." The complainants charged that improper modes of punishment were used by the teacher, such as striking the head with a bound book, pulling the hair and ears, etc. The report of the committee says, "as to the bound book weapon, if we approve of any corporal punishment, one would not think that a package of paper wrapped up in a piece of sheepskin to be a very deadly weapon; we think we have heard of paper bullets not being very fatal to the enemy. Nor are the hair and ears a very vital part of the human system." The report also notes that various citizens have considered that "the affair of School Committee was a money making business." Whereupon a summary of work performed is appended, which included examination of the qua,fiications of teachers, supervision of schools and studies the making of an annual report in detail with a return to the Commonwealth, a census of children between the ages of four and sixteen, and monthly visitations of each school. The chairman performed the greater part of this work and also supplied stationary and for the previous seven years had received from the town a total of $39. 50, an unanswerable statement.

"The duty our children owe to God and themselves, or morality and religion, without sectarian and denomina-

national distinction, should be an important item of education in our schools." So says Richard Phillips, jr. in his report for the year 1843-4, which occupies eighteen closely printed pages and displays complacent erudition combined with a happy commendation of both teachers and scholars. According to the report, the schools were in a highly flourishing condition. The establishment of a high school to be opened only in the winter was advocated.

The following year Charles Herrick was chairman. Nothing other than ordinary was noted in the report save the fact that a new school house soon was to be built in the North district and the recommendation made that the new building be located on some different site. Of the one hundred and ten scholars who attended the Centre school, twenty-three are mentioned as being but four years of age. The new Centre school house erected in the fall of 1844 is mentioned and spoken of as well adapted to the wants of the district. The expenditure for teachers was $570.00

John G. Hood, who had recently taught in the public schools, wrote the report for the year ending March, 1846. His "general remarks" at its close were highly practical. He censured the custom followed by some parents who took their children from the Centre school when they had reached an age at which they could be employed at a mechanical trade. He condemned the policy that "turned out" these imperfectly educated boys to become townsmen, parts of society, on whom the public duties of the community would soon devolve. "Our Republican Institutions are depending on the intelligence and popular will for their continuance and usefulness. Therefore how important it is, that the rising generation should be well instructed, both in moral and intellectual knowledge. This, though of so much importance, appears by many to be lost sight of or totally disregarded, and sinks into insignificance when compared with dollars and cents."

But while the chairman of the school board severely criticised the money making parent he did not spare the thoughtless and superficial mind, for he says:—"There

is, in the community, a very strong inclination on the part of pupils, and in some instances of parents and teachers, to attend to some of the higher branches and thereby become superficial or merely white washed. This needs counteracting; no scholar should be allowed or even encouraged to omit the common useful branches in order to study the ornamental and less useful. Common Arithmetic should not be made second to Algebra, nor English Grammer to Logic and Rhetoric. After a knowledge of Reading, Spelling, Defining, Writing, Grammar and Geography is obtained, which is a firm basis for an English Education, then and not till then should scholars aspire to higher branches. By an examination of some schools and scholars, it might be inferred that a new highway to obtain knowledge had been opened, which would entirely cut off the old fundamental branches, and in their place be substituted the elegant, towering and refined." This seems to have been aimed at the North district where for the past few years, the scholars taught during the winter term by college students, had revelled in the glories of latin, greek, algebra, geometry, astronomy and kindred studies. It is noticeable that the following year found but one scholar in the town, and he in the North district, applying himself to latin, and but three who studied algebraic forms while geometry was a thing unknown. Meanwhile improvements were taking place. New school houses were being built and the report grows reminiscent —— "for the old houses will soon be numbered among the things that were, and known only in history, as one after another of these time-worn and 'boy-abused' edifices are annually giving place to their neat, gay and youthful competitors."

Little of note is recorded for the following year. Both teachers and scholars seem to have quietly moved along the "even tenor of their way." The new North school house was occupied for the first time during the winter term of 1846-7, and the report remarks on "the height of the room and the means afforded for ventilation." When one considers the architectural barrenness of the average "district school" and holds in mind the present outlying

school houses, the following extract from this report seems a little in the nature of adulation.

"The last school house is now under contract (the East), on the completion of which, if it falls not behind its temporaries, our Town will have school houses not inferior, but commanding, fascinating and attractive, and to which we can point with admiration, as *forts* in which our children will have the principles of virtue, morality and religion inculcated, which will ever be a sure national defence for our Republican Institutions."

For the school year ending March 13, 1848 there was no *printed* report made to the town. A few years ago John H. Towne had the manuscript put into type at his expense and a small edition was struck off. The name of Rev. Anson McLoud appears for the first time as committeeman and at frequent intervals in the following years, his interest in the public schools never flagging. As his name heads the list he probably was chairman of the committee as well might become his influential position in town. "We were much pleased with the correctness and apparent intelligence with which important moral lessons in rhyme, and some beautiful passages from the scriptures were repeated." So says the report of the North school taught by Miss Clarissa H. Towne.

Mr. McLoud, politic man that he was, gave the town great praise for their recent efforts in building new school houses, and then proceeded to suggest that there were other things needed. "You have done nobly in erecting four new school houses within the space of four years. No country town in this immediate neighborhood, perhaps none in the county and few in the state are so well furnished with neat, tasteful, comfortable, convenient school houses as Topsfield. It is worthy of note and reflects honor upon our citizens that these four houses have been built without opposition or wrangling, yea, *with* the hearty good will of all. We hope the suggestion will not be out of place to people who have shown so much patriotism and liberality in building the houses, that they take a little pains to ornament the grounds on which the houses stand. Let the people of each neighborhood set

out a few shade trees in proper locations immediately. Let the yards be bordered with rose bushes and shrubbery." How well his suggestion was received and acted upon is well known.

"Singing has been employed in the Centre School with admirable effect" says the report for the next year, which also says "we regard Mr. Berry as a first rate teacher, but think it would tend to the improvement of his school if he would prohibit the communications of the scholars with each other, and also would rely a little less upon concert recitations." Excellent advice.

The winter term of the North school at times must have been rather exciting for the report in mild language regrets that any of the scholars should have been deficient in respectful deportment due to a teacher, at the same time deploring the fact that the teacher should have been injudicious in his management and hasty and harsh of speech. The larger scholars were the flies in this pedagog's ointment. The report announces a discovery which it were well that parents, even at the present day, would ever bear in mind. "We believe that instances have been found in the history of our race, of children who had no very scrupulous regard for the truth." An important fact; and the report goes still further and says, "parents may prevent much disturbance in the neighborhood, much trouble to the teacher, and much shame and chagrin on their own part, if they will search a little after the unvarnished truth, before they give way to passion and resentment." Mr. McLoud then lays down this axiom—"children who have a descent bringing up at home, never have quarrels and disturbances at school, either with the teacher, or with other scholars."

The Scotch blood of the worthy pastor came to the surface in his summary this year, and his pen was forged into a Damascene blade with which to bring confusion to the non-progressive element in town. It all grew out of an attempt by the committee to introduce into the schools, at their own expense, a system of weekly report cards now considered so essential. It appears that the committee, with childlike innocence, supposed each parent would

take to the innovation as ducks to the brook, but in this they were sadly mistaken. Mr. McLoud most picturesquely describes the furor raised among the parents of the scholars. "Some of the parents regarded the cards as an innovation, and therefore mischievous. Some looked upon them as anti-scriptural, and therefore wicked. Some thought they were tyrannical and arbitrary, and therefore in conflict with the Immortal Declaration of Independence and the glorious Constitution. Some believed them a crafty device by which they should be certified when their children had played truant, or had behaved badly in school, or had neglected their lessons, and therefore an abomination. At first it was proposed to issue the cards regularly, but learning that they were deemed such mighty engines of evil, fraught with ruin to all our political, social, and religious interests, we directed the teachers not to insist upon a parent's signing them, but to keep the weekly record on the cards, notwithstanding. One of the teachers who had opposed the introduction of the cards, after a few weeks took the responsibility of laying them aside, and we felt like sympathizing with him rather than censuring him, for he had made such a ridiculous mistake in filling out the blanks, and withal had used such awkward chirography, that it must have been extremely mortifying to him to send them round weekly to all the families."

Mr. McLoud prepared the reports for the next two years, and had little to offer of an unusual nature. "A young man from Lynn" tried to teach the East school for the winter term of 1850-1, and proved to be a weak member, so that the chairman gave him his discharge papers at the end of the first three days.

Richard Phillips, jr., took charge of the educational responsibilities of the town at the next annual town meeting, and at the close of the year presented a superlative report. Mr. Phillips' command of adjectives, added to a happy faculty for euphonious phrases, gave to the report a most glittering effect.

Dr. Merriam succeeded to Mr. Phillips' editorial shoes, and reported to the town that the committee had discov

ered things that called loudly for improvement. He severely criticised the lack of thoroughness and the veneer of various ornamental studies which had been pursued to the neglect of the three R's. An epidemic of scarlet fever prevailed about the town and interfered with the attendance, although nothing is said regarding the closing of the schools owing to its contagious character.

In 1855, Dr. Merriam, on writing the report, began as follows: "We would that you were either cold or hot; that you would either praise or censure our Reports; that you would read and make your comments. We have been making Reports year after year concerning the condition of the mental and moral developments of those young immortals for whom you profess to have great anxiety, and yet hardly take the pains to peruse a short account of a year's teaching, whether it be for weal or for woe. We believe this Report is not all honey-sweetened, nor vinegar-acidulated." The worthy doctor spoke truly, for his summary preserved a happy medium of criticism and praise. But a new star of transcendant brilliancy soon appeared above the horizon and began to shed its rays of wisdom on the town through the medium of the school report. "Squire" Holmes, who, like his illustrious legal predecessor, Sylvanus Wildes of lawful memory, ever enjoyed the delights of a perpetual vacation from exacting legal cares, began to favor the town with choice specimens of his curious wit. The report for 1857 was the first of the series, and the "Squire," being a bit unfamiliar with his task, hardly reached the eloquent pace he afterward attained.

"Our first visit was directed to the Centre school, kept by Ellen M. Perley. As we neared the school house, 'with measured steps and slow,' in all the consequential dignity of office, our ears were saluted with an increasing murmur. Like the good lady who, arrayed in a new dress, entered the church just as the minister was saying, 'the Lord have mercy on us,' and supposing he must be speaking of what she was thinking, exclaimed, 'the Lord of mercy on us!—didn't you ever see a new gown before?' We presumed the noise was occasioned by the

timely discovery of our anticipated advent by some 'look out,' and in honor of our exalted selves. On our entrance the illusion was quickly dissipated by the uproarious demonstration of joy at our arrival, not as honoring *us*, but dishonoring the school by availing themselves of the occasion for confusion. A few pursued their studies with stoical indifference, while the majority were assiduously determining the flexibilities of which their bodies were susceptible. Suggesting the importance of good order, we departed."

The average attendance at the East school being eight, the "Squire" says of the teacher: "Having been faithful over a few things, we trust she will as deservedly rule over many." The national standard floated over the North school house on examination day, the interior was decorated with evergreens and potted plants and crowded with parents and children from all parts of the town, and honored by the presence of the clergy. "In fact," says the report, "it was a glorious day for the 'city' and will form an era in its educational annals."

Mr. Holmes grew reminiscent while discussing the South school and remarked that "it will be recollected that this school was, the previous winter, under the tyrannic rule of the gentleman of the 'rueful countenance,' who, it seems, was Daniel Wilkins of Littleton, N. H. The chairman, the previous year, states that Wilkins possessed "an austere countenance," so possibly the "Squire" was justified in quoting Don Quixote.

The glories of the old Topsfield Academy have been celebrated so recently that the opinion of that honored institution held by the school committee of 1857 is certainly of interest. While moralizing on the recently awakened interest in education, the chairman continues: "We do not assume to ourselves the propulsion of this movement, but ascribe it, rather, to the self-awakening of the citizens whose gullibility has been so long practiced on, in the pomps, fetes, high solemnities, and other inflations of superficial academic teachers."

But Chairman Holmes, in a footnote, confesses his weakness and gives way to spleen. He had been giving

the town an example of his acute mind in describing the principle of "pedal suction," as he styles it. While reading Dr. Kane's polar narrative, he found that work stated that the walrus, having a weight of three thousand pounds or more, made its way up the perpendicular, polished surface of ice and rock by its tusks, whereupon the "Squire" gave an eloquent description of the "pedal suction" principle, using as an example the house fly. He speaks of his amazement on finding that the Edinburgh Encyclopaedia did not agree with him, but took sides with Dr. Kane, and then goes on to say: "I addressed a letter in January last to the editor of the N. Y. Tribune, embodying this statement; but he was so transcendentalized with the immensity of his gastronomic developments, the garnered accumulation doubtless of his consortion with the Catos of the land, that my communication was unheeded." Had Horace Greeley chanced upon this confession, what a smile would have spread over his benign countenance.

Nearly ten years passed before the "Squire" was given an opportunity to write another school report. He seemed to have filled "a long felt want," and filled it to a satiety. In 1865 he again came to the front, and opens his report with a description of his visit to the Centre primary school kept by Miss Mary E. Gould. "At the accustomed monitions, the children resolved themselves into 'position,' with all the grave demeanor of a society of beavers, rising with military precision to the enaction of the 'gymnastic drill,'

> While boy and girl, with stentor lung,
> The 'Glory Hallelujah' sung.

These interesting flummeries were succeeded by the recitations, then came the grand racy caper on the common."

As superintendent of all the schools he wrote, "Instead of the glib analytic 'amplifications' of our fashionable schools, so delicious to the scholastic *a la mode* exquisite, we have substituted the study of spelling, reading, writing, parsing and transposing the English language according to Murray. It may be old-fashioned, but some how or other we cannot get round old Murray.

In lieu of quadratic equations, we have wrought taxes, measured wood and timber, triangulated distances, and, in a word, leaving excelsiorites to the excelsiori, we have directed our attention to the simples of our own sphere, squaring up these things to the very root.

"Again, assuming corporal punishment to be indispensable, not as a universal remedy, but in extreme cases, still with *striking* reminiscences of the development of craniologic bumps by the application of hard *rules*, I would recommend that these *rules* be so applied as not to create a distorted, but nicely proportioned and well balanced head. . . .

"The subject of our Centre school house has been under consideration for years.

"The idea of the present edifice, like that of the unique structure on the nether end of our church, originated in the concentrated wisdom of certain Topsfield geniuses, who for their efforts in edificial originality procured themselves the legitimate titular appendage of 'pillars of the church and parish,' giving to the world a new order of architecture dominated The Whim.

"The nowhere, no-how location of the house has called forth unqualified expressions of wonder at the peculiar ingenuity of these savans in devising so perfect a representation of the versatility of our people. Still, without detracting from their general conceptions, I would say in all honesty that the architects or their eulogists are here sadly at fault, since the very vanes of our churches on 'The Common,' by some mysterious mesmeric polarity of congergated and methodic will, or other determined supernatural spiritual agency, turn persistently in opposite directions, in spite of wind or weather, in utter recusancy.

"The exterior form of the building, with the door beyond the centre, was suggested, probably by the Roman steelyard with its principle of balanced justice and privilege, and wrought into edificial use by the same converting power of genius that conceived and effected the Ionian order of architecture from the contemplation of a lady's curls, or the Corinthian from a vase of flowers, or the elder Chaldaic from the palm tree.

"The portal of the house, more expressive than that of the temple of Janus at Rome, open at all times, indicates the elemental freedom arising from popular liberty.

"The interior economical arrangement presents itself at the entry, in the ingenious device of the garret with its magazine of wood, borne up to be thrown down, projected in the prescience of coming events, to initiate the young in the art of war, and how one well posted could contend against 'fearful odds.'

"As one enters the rooms he is struck with the comprehensive economy of the conception, in the practical solution of the problem by which a thing is made to hold more than it will contain, and the great facilities for the communication of knowledge with two in a seat and three in the middle, including illustrations of double position and double proportion, and the rising inflection with model artist exhibitions of primitive Hottentotal statuary.

"Nor need I name the peculiar arrangement for the diffusion of heat and cold with geographic elucidations of the torrid and frigid zones, and other scientific devices. This monument of mighty conception may pass away, 'sic transit gloria mundi,' but the evidence of the spirit that prompted, and the genius that executed, will ever be enstamped on the hearts of a grateful people."

Much interesting and curious matter may be found in other reports of the school committee, but space will not permit its collection at this time. No account of the school reports of the town of Topsfield could be complete, however, without reference to the famous report made to the town in March, 1867, and written by "Squire" Holmes, a report for many years treasured in the office of the Salem Gazette, the place of its nativity, as one of the educational curiosities of the period.

"The Primary Centre school, summer and winter, was instructed by Miss Mary E. Gould, of Topsfield. Under the guidance of this master-hand in genuine philosophic simplicity, the school presented the same phases of unvarying successful advancement as in former years, from the dissonant mouthings of half-fledged juvenile articulation, through the winding passages of syllabicism, to

the Mount Hope of spell-reading; the same grateful interspersion of gymnastic, vocal, recessive and studious enaction, rendering every exercise equally a pastime, and romancing the reality of first efforts in dry study. . . .

"Miss Unis L. Tandy, of Groveland, succeeded Miss H[apgood] in the guidance of the South school during the winter season. Miss T. was an enthusiastic, energetic, social and decidedly plucky young lady, 'laying out' one of the biggest boys the first week, and hesitating not to remain with her charge, in the storm-beleaguered schoolhouse, during one of the most tempestuous nights of the past winter. In fact, with a peculiar force of character, she threw herself into teaching as a matter of business, not only conducting her school admirably, and bestowing thorough instruction to the very root of the matter, but, by coercives and suasives at school, socializing with the mammas at their homes, fraternizing with every one, she greatly popularized herself and the school, arousing an almost unprecedented educational interest in the district, evinced by the general 'turn-out' at the examination. . . .

"The North school, summer term, commenced under the guidance of Miss Anna C. D. Holmes, of Ipswich, who, although considered a competent teacher, did not exactly suit the 'City' people, who, nurtured in the school of republican freedom, could ill brook the stern discipline and unfamiliar indignities perpetrated on 'them and theirs'—but one, and then another, till the whole population en masse, little and big, man and woman and child, whispered, murmured, threatened, denounced, and at last rising like a volcano, burst with fiery indignation into open rebellion, kicking up a great dust in all the region round about. So frantically intense was the convulsion, that the very animals, and even the elements conspired in sympathetic expressiveness. The geese, whose ancestors saved Rome, with conscious political importance, loudly vociferated, quack! quack! quack! The turkey, that true *Native American,* with indigenous consequential pride, gobbled about the calamities of foreign participation. The sheep, aroused from their quietude by the passing events, looking askance, gave a contemptuous bah! The horse in-

dicated his *course* by a *racy* yet positive *neigh*. Chanticleer, *crested* and *spurred*, and red with ire, from an eminence blew his clarion note of defiance; and the dog and cat, fraternizing in the common cause, *duetted* a caterwauling howl of execration. The bellicose bull 'tossed a horn' to the success of the enterprise, while the pacific guinea hen, in the spirit of the true kindliness, cried out earnestly, go back! go back! go back!

"Nor these alone, for Trinity River itself, that evangelical stream, swollen with rage, bursting forth in a torrent of wrathful outpouring, whirled and boiled, and eddied in irascible frothings threatening the City mole of 'Long Wharf' with demolition. To appease the tutelar Deity of the City, and relieve it from such an impending visitation, it was judged expedient to throw the mistress overboard, Jonah-like, whereupon a great calm ensued."

THE BRIDGES IN TOPSFIELD.

BY HENRY FOLLANSBEE LONG.

Our present bridges are the result of gradual changes, from the "old ford way" and "plank bridge," necessitated by the improved facilities of transportation. The demand for some means of crossing "dry shod" at first resulted in "stepping stones," or a fallen log was utilized, and later a plank was laid across, this in turn being supplemented by another plank. The early records speak of "allowing" this person, or that person, "two pounds nine shillings," or some other amount, for "mending the highways" with plank. In this way, the early bridge, consisting of a single plank, was gradually widened into a rude "cart bridge." Because of this gradual process of growth it is impossible to discover on the early records the exact date of the building of any of our earliest bridges.

Some of the early bridges were constructed of slabs, as we are led to believe from the record under date of Nov. 1, 1725 when "The Town allowed to Jacob Averill three shillings & six pence for Slabs to mend the bridge near to Deac. Howletts." Under the same date, we find that Daniel Gould was allowed "two shillings & six pence for two Logs to mend the bridge near to Mr. John Capens house." Under date of March 7, 1681 or 82, we find that "John ffranch & John Townes are chosen to be siruiouers for ffences and hie ways & bridges for this yeare insuing." Probably the first bridge built was the bridge across the Ipswich river, now known as Balch's bridge, as mention is made of it as early as 1653. Mile Brook bridge on Perkins street was probably the second, first mention of it being under date of April 8, 1667. The first order to build a bridge was in "1668 or 69," when the bridge on Ipswich street over Howlett's Brook, was made. Many of the bridges were built when the streets on which they

are located were laid out. The bridges on the Turnpike were built by the Corporation in 1804 and 1805, with the exception of the Stone bridge.

The Ipswich River Bridges.

Rowley Bridge. This bridge, so called from the fact that the Rowley town line ran near it before 1700, is the first bridge in Topsfield coming down the river. This bridge is mentioned in a deed Jan'y 1, 1695. We find no record of its building, but under date of March 6, 1764, we find the following record. "To see if the Town will help Dea^c George Bixby & others Mend & keep in Repair the Bridge a Crost the River in Topsfield called Rowley Bridg agreable to a petision that may be Prefared to the Town by the said George Bixby and others." Again, under date of May 9, 1774, it was "voted that the bridge across ye River, call Rowley bridge shall be new built this present year." May 26, 1806, it was voted that Daniel Bixby, Benjamin Pike and Henry Bradstreet be a committee to rebuild the bridge, "in the year 1807—fifteen feet wide with a Stone Pier in the middle."

Balch's Bridge. The bridge over the river on Salem street, variously known as the Town bridge, Wooden bridge and Walsh's bridge, is first mentioned March 30, 1653, when the court records speak of "the great bridg which the said Walter Ropper built and cartwaye over the river towards the south." October 21, 1682, the selectmen were ordered to appear at court to "shew the cause of the defect, why a bridge upon the road betweene Salem and Topsfield is not repaired." At a town meeting held May 23, 1718, "theare made Choys of Jacob Town Ephraim Wills and John Curtis a commity to uew and to set a uallaution aCording to there best Skill and Judgment of what ye cost may amount to in rebuilding and repairing our Bridg and Caseway ouer Ipswich reuer and prefar the same With a petition to ye honered Court of qurter Seshition to be holden at Salam in June next insuing the date hereof to see whether ye honored court will asist us with help from the country so that we may be inabeled to rebuild the aboue said Bridge and caseway."

July 9, 1718, another meeting was called to see "which way the Town will rebuild the Bridg ouer the riuer." At the meeting, Isaac Pebody, Ephraim Wills and Simon Bradstreet were "chosen a comitie," "to agree with carpenters to build ye Bridge ouer ye Riuer." Under date of October 31, 1718, we find that, "The Town alowed to Mr Isaac Peabody, Qrt^mr Ephraim Willds and Mr Simon Bradstreet twenty fiue pounds nine shillings for Building ye Bridg." In 1728 the bridge was again repaired, for we find under date of April 2, 1728 that, "Capt Joseph Gould is Chosen to Provide Plank two inches & a half thick and fourteen foot Long; good white oak Plank to Cover s^d Bridge." The town petitioned the "court holden at Ipswich" for a "grant of money to repair Town Bridge," March 17, 1727-8. David Balch was chosen, December 18, 1728, "to take care of the Towns timber near the town bridge so called." The bridge was rebuilt in 1805. Tradition says that an old fordway existed at a very early date, about one hundred and fifty feet below the present bridge.

Stone Bridge. The bridge sometimes called the Arch bridge or Turnpike bridge, was built in 1853, at a cost of $3,658.54, the Town paying $1,245.54, and the County the balance. The first bridge at this spot was of wood, and was built by the Newburyport Turnpike Corporation, in 1803 or 1804. It was washed away seven or eight years afterwards and again in December, 1837 it was partially destroyed.

Towne's Bridge crosses the river at High street. The records do not show when this bridge was built, and it may be presumed that a bridge did not exist here prior to 1771, for in that year bricks were hauled over Grass hill to build the chimney of the Bradstreet house. Direct mention, however, is made to this bridge on July 15, 1809, when Joshua Town "had with our consent laid out and fenced a certain road or way of the width of 3 rods leading from a bridge lately erected by said Joshua over Ipswich river in said Topsfield over our land on the S. side of sd River to land now belonging to the widow Sarah Fisk."

RAILROAD BRIDGE. The bridge on which the Boston and Maine railroad crosses the river is sometimes known as the "Iron Bridge." The present structure was constructed by the Boston Bridge Works in 1888. In the month of February, 1855, a heavy freshet destroyed the first bridge built the previous year, so that for a portion of the month no trains passed through Topsfield. The second bridge was built at this time.

LAMSON'S BRIDGE, over which Asbury street crosses, is named from the family of that name, who have lived in this vicinity for two hundred and fifty years. Felt, in his History of Ipswich, says that in 1730 a cart bridge was "built over the river by Jonathan Lamson and others." April 3, 1780, "The Town allowed to Mr Peletiah Cummings four pounds twelve shillings for forty six feet of plank used in covering Lamson's bridge." November 4, 1813, it was voted that a new bridge be built over the river. This bridge was probably completed in 1814, for under date of March 1, 1814, appears further mention of the "new bridge."

MISCELLANEOUS BRIDGES.

DRY BRIDGE. So called from the fact of its bridging Howlett street where the Turnpike crosses. Under date of April 1, 1805, it was voted, "To grant liberty to the Newburyport Turnpike Corporation to erect a dry bridge across the road near Joseph Andrews, provided it is done to the reasonable satisfaction of the selectmen and Sylvanus Wildes, Isaac Averill and Joseph Andrews and all persons immediately concerned or the major part of them."

MILE BROOK BRIDGE crosses Mile brook on Perkins street, east from the junction of Perkins and Ridge streets. The first mention of this bridge is at a meeting held April 8 1667 when, "The Towne granted Liberty to William Aueriell and Daniell Borman to make a dame at the Mile brooke a rode and a halfe aboue the bridge to float there medow prouided it be no damige to the town." The bridge was repaired in 1701. Dec. 18, 1728, Nathaniel Averill was allowed "six shillings and two pence," for

"two string pieces and eight slabs to mend Mile Brooke bridge in 1728." This bridge was used as a bound in deeds of land in 1711.

Fish Brook Bridge is at the boundary line between Boxford and Topsfield on River street. In a deed dated December 27, 1662, a piece of land is spoken of as being bounded by "Curtice's Bridge." Presumably this was Fish Brook bridge. Mention of this bridge is made again in 1767, as Fish Brook bridge. It was rebuilt in 1805.

Wheel Brook Bridge carries Salem street over the brook at the foot of Dwinell's hill, so called. The first mention of this bridge is on September 21, 1742, when "The Town allowed to Thomas Dwinel one pound Ten shillings old Tenor for Timber to mend Wheel Brook Bridge in ye year 1741."

Bridge over Howlett's Brook on Ipswich street, just below the junction of Perkins Street. From the following record it appears that a bridge existed here very early, for under date of "ye 2 march 1668 or 69, it is also ordered and agreed apon With Ensigne Thomas Howlett that thay will make and maintaine a bridge ouer ye Brooke by Ensignes house in ye way as wee goe to Ipswich ye one halfe to be don by the Towne and the other halfe by ye sd Ensigne." December 18, 1728, this bridge is spoken of as the bridge "by Deac^n Howletts," and under date of May 16, 1786, Capt. Thomas Cummings was allowed," ten shillings and five pence for 67 feet of white oake plank used in mending Hobbs Bridge (so called)."

Nichols' Brook Bridge, is now in Middleton, but for a number of years was in Topsfield. It is on the Copper Mine road. March 5, 1705/6 "The Town agreed to free all ye Inhabitants on ye South west side of Nicholls Brook from highway worke on ye north East Side of said Brook for this year provided they maintain the Bridge over s^d Nicholls Brook and the rest of the highways and Bridges on that side of ye sd Nicholls Brook."

Falls Bridge is on North street, near Ipswich street, at the mill pond. The first mention of this bridge is

under date of June 22, 1714, when North street was laid out. The record reads, "We whose names are underwriten have lay'd out a highway from ye common Land afore^{sd} over the falls Bridg so called up the Hill to the lift and fence, near Deac Dormans and Mr. Isaac Peabodys fence." In 1724, under date of December 15th, Capt. Thomas Baker was allowed "seven shillings & Six pence for Timber to mend the falls Bridge in 1724."

Gallup's Brook Bridge is on Haverhill street, where it crosses Pie brook, more recently known at this point as Gallup's brook, because Israel Gallup lived near this bridge over fifty years ago. The bridge was probably built in March, 1668 or 69, when the road was laid out, although no record of its building exists.

Boardman's Bridge on Ipswich street, at the crossing of the Turnpike. The first mention of this bridge is on October 3, 1717, when a road was laid out, "from the Road that is lay'd through Mr. Peabodys Land and Jesse Dormans Land to Ipswich to the Bridg to Jacob Peabodys Land, etc." This bridge was repaired in 1733 and in 1813. At a town meeting held May 15, 1826, it was "voted to build a stone bridge in the place of the wooden one near Messr^{s} Peabody's mills, called Boardman's bridge, and Ephraim Perkins, David Hobbs, Junr., and John Potter were chosen a committee to build said bridge."

Bridge over Gallup's Brook off Haverhill Street. A bridge was built, "over the brook back of Ivory Hovey's," on Jan. 13, 1709. "March 17, 1789," The Town voted that the Surveyors of High-ways Shall build a Bridge across the Brook near the House that was occupied by Ivory Hovey and repair the Road from said Brook to the Country Road in Some Convenient place in order that Stephen Perley, and others may pass, and repass as they shall have occassion. Provided Mr. Thomas Emerson gives from under his hand in writing that said Perley, and all other persons may pass and repass from time to time as they shall have occasion."

Great Pond Bridge is near Hood's pond on Pond street. This bridge may have been built in March, 1668

or 69 when Pond street was built. In a deed of land sold in 1654, and recorded March 14, 1662, appears the following description of the parcel. "6 acres meadow lying about the middle of Mr. Bakers pond where the highway bridge comes," March 3, 1729/30 Jesse Dorman was allowed five shillings, "for Timber to Mend the bridge by ye Great Pond so called in 1729." March 3, 1746/7, "The Town allowed to Deacon Hovey Ten Shillings old Tenor for Timber to Mend the Bridge by the Great Pond in 1745."

Zaccheus Perkins' Bridge. This bridge is off Prospect street, toward the old "Hubbard house," so called. At a town meeting held March 1, 1714/5 "The Town agreed that So long as Zacheus Perkins doth maintain a sufficient Cart Bridge over the Brook by his House, So long said Perkins Shall be freed from other Highway Work in the Town."

At a town meeting held November 17, 1727 "The town allowed to Samuel Smith two Shillings for Timber to mend the Bridge Near the Meeting-house," no doubt over the brook immediately in the rear. Under date of Sept. 7, 1694, "Sargt Houlet propounded for a draine crose the way from his field to mr Capens meadow and ye said Howlet engaged to make a bridg ouer it, and kep in repaire at his owne cost and charg; the inhabitence here preasent did mannifest thare free consent." Numerous small bridges or culverts have been built from time to time of which no account is here taken. The dry bridge, on which the railroad crosses West street, was built in 1854 and was replaced in 1888 by the present iron bridge. When the railroad was constructed, a "cow pass" was built under the roadbed near the oak grove between Washington street and West street, now owned by Henry B. Williams, but this was filled up a number of years ago. A bridge that existed in the 17th century, carries Maple street over the unnamed brook that flows southerly from the Village to the river. This bridge has been variously known as "Foster's" and "Poker" or "Porker" bridge. According to tradition it is associated with Parson Capen's encounter with the Devil during witchcraft times.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAM N. CLEAVELAND.

"Died February 10th [1872], at his home in Boxford, William Neale Cleaveland, aged seventy-four." Such, the brief record of the daily obituary. Many who knew Mr. Cleaveland will feel that something more than this passing notice is due to his memory. He was not, indeed, in the usual sense of the phrase, a public man,—neither could his life be regarded as specially eventful. Those, however, who knew what he was, will hardly doubt that had he been less modest, or more ambitious, he could easily have played a part in legislation or in politics, nor can it be doubted that those energies of mind and will, which gave to him the leadership in a small community, would have made him conspicuously useful on a wider stage.

He was the son of Dr. Nehemiah and Mrs. Experience Cleaveland, and was born in Topsfield, Essex County, Mass., on the 6th of April, 1798. From parents of more than ordinary intelligence and worth, he inherited a vigorous constitution, both bodily and mental. At the proper age, he had the proffer of a college education, which a needless distrust of his own capacities, and the feeling, perhaps, that duty pointed in a different direction, led him to decline. Beside the town school, he attended, for a while, the Bradford and Atkinson Academies. Probably his most efficient training, both moral and intellectual, was the kindly discipline and unconscious culture of the paternal household, with its unceasing and wholesome activities of thought, reading and conversation. For two or three winters he taught school, very acceptably. Then he took charge of his father's little farm. He was strong and skillful, and performed with his own hands a vast amount of labor. Called to take an active part in town and parish affairs, he early evinced

great aptitude for business, combined with a praiseworthy independence of thought and action.

In 1829, he was married to Miss Harriet Perley of Boxford. No one, whose memory reaches back to that period, needs to be told that farmers, in those days, had a hard time, or will think it strange that this young husband sought for some employment which promised better returns. Very soon after his marriage, he removed to Killingly, Conn. There, with a young partner of some experience in the business, he reared a small mill for the spinning and weaving of cotton. This mill stood where, a few years later, the Danielsonville Manufacturing Company erected their large factory. After two years of hard work and of very successful operations, he sold out to his partner and returned to Essex County.

Mr. Gorham Parsons had, just before, come into possession of the small, but once famous, water power, at the head of tide-water in the Parker River, Newbury, and in conjunction with the ingenious and celebrated Paul Moody of Lowell, had rebuilt dam and mill. The spot might well be dear to Mr. Moody, for there he was born, and there he had served his apprenticeship to the great Jacob Perkins, in the rude little shop which produced and sent forth the first nails ever made by mechanical power. Of Mr. Parson's mill Mr. Cleaveland took a seven years' lease, and with the late Mr. Solomon Wildes of Boston, as a silent partner, proceeded to stock it with machinery for the manufacture of cotton cloth. In this responsible position, involving the care and control of many individuals, and demanding a constant exercise of judgment and skill, he showed himself to be a very efficient superintendent. But though he succeeded, so far as production was concerned, he was unable to make the business profitable. Under the disastrous influence of the "Compromise" (so called), American manufactures were then fast declining, and when that lease expired, that influence had culminated in universal stagnation and wide-spread ruin. As nothing to encourage its continuance was visible in prospect, the enterprise was given up.

In 1842, Mr. Cleaveland returned to his early home,

which still remained in the family, and which continued to be his place of residence for the next thirteen years. Here he was variously occupied. There was still some land to be cared for. He planted orchards and some ornamental trees, and superintended those alterations and improvements, which soon made the old house and its surroundings an object of rare attraction. Awake to every call of kindness and of duty, he approved himself a good husband, father, neighbor, and citizen. After the construction of the Danvers and Georgetown Railroad, he was made a director of the company, holding for several years the office of treasurer, in which capacity he had a great deal to do with the management of the road.

In 1856, he removed to East Boxford, and settled, for the rest of his life, on that large Perley farm which has come down in the family, unalienated, from the first settler of the town. Here, also, he found much to do in the way of improvement, and his good judgment and good taste were strikingly shown in the changes and additions which he made. Besides the care of his farm, on which he worked a good deal, he undertook the administration and settlement of several estates—a kind of business which suited him, and in which his promptness and accuracy, and great practical sagacity, were particularly serviceable.

But he had mind and heart for something beyond his farm and the daily details of business. The affairs and the welfare of the little parish which he had joined early enlisted his warm interest and active efforts. At East Boxford he found himself among a people who knew how to appreciate such an accession, and who gladly seconded his movements in every good cause. Their house of worship had gone to decay, and had long been unfit for use. All attempts to renovate, or even to repair it, had been foiled by the selfish obstinacy of two or three large pew-holders. Mr. Cleaveland took hold of the task, bringing to it courage, intelligence, and persistent energy, and the work was soon accomplished.

The neat and well-inclosed burying-ground, in which his remains now rest, had long been suffering from indif-

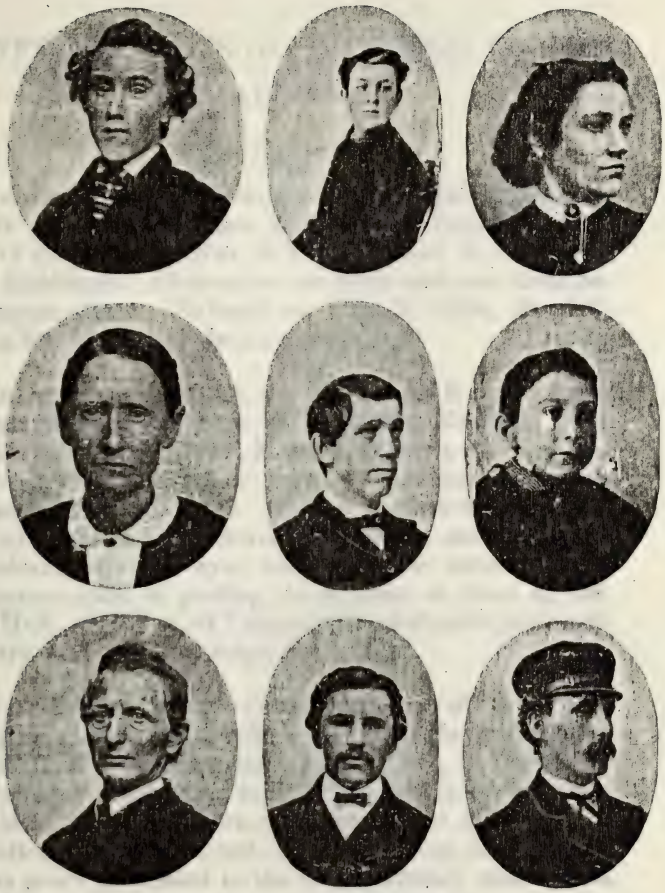
ference and neglect. There are many who remember how skilfully Mr. Cleaveland awakened a new interest among the proprietors of that graveyard, how he induced them to open their purses, and did not rest until he had placed about the ground that handsome and substantial wall, which is itself a monument to his memory.

When, a few years later, the parish wished to express, by some special manifestation, their regard for a pastor whose faithful services they had enjoyed for five and twenty years, Mr. Cleaveland's efficient agency was again sought, and again resulted in a success that exceeded their highest expectations.

His latest, and probably most important service of this description, was the part which he took in the erection of a parsonage house. When he entered on that work, which he believed to be absolutely essential to the continued prosperity of the parish, many regarded it as a hopeless enterprise, even in his hands. But the difficulties which discouraged others, seemed to stimulate him. It was only by earnest and persevering effort that the proposed fund was raised. Even then the work could not have been carried forward without careful planning, the most frugal management, and constant oversight. All this and more, for days and months, he willingly gave, not only directing others, but laboring often with his own hands. Had he left no other memorial, that neat, pleasant, commodious parsonage would speak his praise. . . .

Always and eminently a lover of home, he was fortunate in his domestic relations. Two daughters died while the family lived in Topsfield. His other children, four in number, continued to live with or near him, and the wife of his youth survives him. . . .

—*Salem Gazette, Mar. 19, 1872.*



TINTYPE PORTRAITS TAKEN ABOUT 1868.

William Herbert Wildes	Charles H. Leach	Sarah S. Edwards
Mrs. Rachel Clifford	Thomas F. Gould	Gilbert B. Balch
Samuel Clifford	Joseph H. Lovett	William Henry Wildes

TINTYPE PORTRAITS TAKEN ABOUT 1863

William Herbert Wildes
Mrs. Rachel Clifford

Charles H. Leach
Thomas R. Gould

Sarah S. Edwards
Gilbert E. Bates

TINTYPE PORTRAITS OF TOPSFIELD PEOPLE TAKEN ABOUT 1868.

William Herbert Wildes, son of Humphrey and Olive B. (Perkins) Wildes, was born in Topsfield, Oct. 13, 1843 and married, Nov. 5, 1865, Eunice H. Richardson of Middleton. Shoemaker by trade and now lives on Washington street. Enlisted on July 9, 1864, for 100 days, in 8th Mass. Vol. Infy., Company D.

Charles Healy Leach, son of Thomas K. and Louisa (Morgan) Leach, was born in Topsfield, May 28, 1854 and married, Jan. 15, 1884, Mary A. Wilkins of Wenham. Butcher by trade and now lives in Wenham to which town he removed in 1910. Kept a market in Topsfield for many years and also drove a butcher's cart. Served as selectman, road surveyor, and held other minor offices. Was instrumental in grading the common in front of the Town Hall. Member of Congregational church choir and Secretary of Fountain Lodge, I. O. O. F.

Sarah Stickney Edwards, daughter of John and Mary Ann (Marsh) Edwards, was born in Haverhill, Aug. 25, 1839, and died, unmarried, April, 1907, in Haverhill. As a young girl she came to Topsfield and lived with her aunt, Mrs. Royal A. Merriam, returning to Haverhill in 1887 after her aunt's death. While living in Topsfield she was much interested in the Town Library and served as a volunteer worker. The Town Library received a bequest of $500, at her death.

Mrs. Rachel Clifford, daughter of Azariah and Sarah (Towne) Averill, was born in Salem, April 16, 1816, and married, Nov. 28, 1832, Samuel Clifford of Topsfield, where she lived until her death, Apr. 20, 1900.

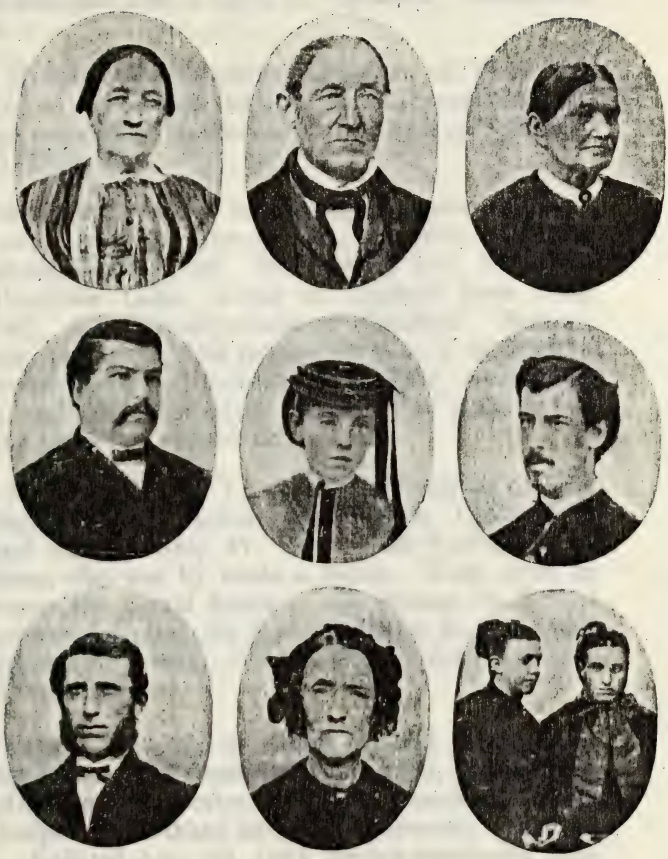
Thomas Franklin Gould, son of Francis and Almira (Doe - Dudley) Gould, was born in Boxford, Sept. 7, 1849, and died, unmarried, May 30, 1909, in Haverhill. Shoemaker by trade. Removed to Haverhill, about 1884 where for several years he served on the police force.

Gilbert Brownell Balch, son of Humphrey and Hannah P. (Bradstreet) Balch, was born in Topsfield, Feb. 9, 1856. He fitted at Phillips Academy, Andover, for Dartmouth College, graduating in the class of 1877. He studied law for one year at Boston University and then deciding upon the ministry he entered Andover Theologieal Seminary and was graduated in 1881, and became pastor of the Congregational Church at Kingston, N. H. He resigned this pastorate in 1884 because of ill health and the following year engaged in the book publishing business in Toronto, Canada, removing to Boston in 1887 where he organized the firm of Balch Brothers Co., achieving considerable business success in the sale of the Century Dictionary and in publishing the Stoddard Lectures. He married, July 14, 1881, Sarah Elizabeth Perkins of Topsfield, and died there July 24, 1910.

Samuel Clifford, son of Samuel and Lydia Clifford, was born in Salem, N. H.(?), Feb. 28, 1807, and married Nov. 28, 1832, Rachel Averill of Topsfield. He was a shoemaker by trade and died Feb. 17, 1872 in Topsfield.

Joseph Henry Lovett, son of Joseph and Sarah A. (Morse) Lovett, was born in Topsfield, Aug. 29, 1843, and married in Lawrence, Jan. 27, 1870. Mary Elizabeth Nutter. He was a clerk in B. P. Adams' store when he enlisted Aug. 15, 1862, for three years, in the 40th Mass. Vols. Infy., Company F. He was taken prisoner at Drury's Bluff, where he lost his leg. He was confined in prison at Richmond Prison and two months later was exchanged. Was discharged for disability, with the rank of corporal, on June 13, 1865. Bookkeeper and also in the insurance business. Lives in Lawrence.

William Henry Wildes, son of Joseph Benjamin and Louisa E. (Foster) Wildes, born (baptized June 4, 1843)



TINTYPE PORTRAITS TAKEN ABOUT 1868.

Mrs. Huldah L. Sweeney
Benjamin Lane
Edwin S. Clifford
Andrew Gould
Annie Wright
Mrs. Mehitable Lake
Mrs. Mary Parkinson
Henry H. Potter
Carrie A. Higgins and Mrs. Susan J. Averill

in Andover, married Dec. 20, 1869, in Topsfield, Dora T. Sweeney and died Feb. 2, 1872, in Topsfield. Shoemaker by trade.

Mrs. Huldah L. Sweeney, daughter of Enos and Anna (Gould) Lake, was born in Newburyport, May 2, 1807, and married Miles Sweeney. She died in Topsfield, April 15, 1883.

Andrew Gould, son of Andrew and Pamelia (Kenney) Gould, was born in Middleton, Dec. 11, 1805, and died in Topsfield, Oct. 6, 1896. He married Feb. 24, 1829, Mary Prudence Lake. Lived in Boxford from 1831 until 1847. A prominent citizen of Topsfield. Farmer, contractor, and at one time partner of Wm. E. Kimball in the grocery business. Selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, and held other minor offices. For years a justice of the peace and settled many estates.

Mrs. Mary ("Polly") Parkinson, daughter of Ezra and Betsy (Redden) Perkins, was born in Topsfield in 1807, and married July 17, 1851, John Parkinson, an Englishman, who was by trade a tailor. They lived in what is now the Gould house at the corner of School avenue, where he plied his trade and also kept a small tavern or lodging house. "Aunt Polly," died Apr. 14, 1897, in the almshouse.

Benjamin Lane, son of David S. and Lydia Ann Lane, was born in Gloucester, Aug. 6, 1839, and married Dec. 5, 1862, at Gloucester, Lucy J. Kneeland. Shoemaker, keeper of a billiard hall, and afterwards dealer in leather. Enlisted Aug. 23, 1864, for ten months, in 28th Unattached Company Heavy Artillery, afterwards the 4th Mass. Heavy Artillery, Company M. Lives in Topsfield.

Lucy Ann ("Annie") Wright, daughter of Deacon John and Lucy Ann (Sanderson) Wright was born in Topsfield, Aug. 19, 1854, and now lives, unmarried, in Cambridge, Mass. At one time teacher in the public schools of Topsfield.

Henry Harvey Potter, son of John H. and Hannah W. (Whittaker) Potter, was born in Topsfield, Oct. 27, 1847, and married in Topsfield, Mar. 13, 1872, Mary E. Andrews of Topsfield. Carpenter. Enlisted July 9, 1864, for 100 days, in 8th Mass. Vol. Infy., Company D. Re-enlisted, Sept. 17, 1864, at Baltimore, Md., for one year, in 2d Mass. Heavy Artillery, Company G, serving on the quota of Springfield. Now lives in Danvers and is an official in the Boston Custom House.

Edwin Spofford Clifford, son of Samuel and Rachel (Averill) Clifford, was born in Topsfield, April 20, 1839, and married, in Topsfield, April 24, 1862, Amanda D. Pike of Topsfield. Shoemaker by trade but at one time in the coal business with Isaac M. Woodbury. Elected deacon of the Congregational Church, March 28, 1884. Lives in Topsfield. An ardent fisherman.

Mrs. Mehitable Lake, daughter of Enos and Anna (Gould) Lake, born in Newburyport, Mar. 31, 1805, married, in Topsfield, Nov. 30, 1824, Joel Lake, and died in Topsfield, July 26, 1881.

Carrie A. Higgins, daughter of Major and Caroline (Stackpole) Higgins, was born in Salem, in 1846, married in Topsfield, Nov. 30, 1871, Joel L. Sweeney. Now lives in Lynn.

Mrs. Susan Josephine (Lake) Averill, daughter of William G. and Mehitable (Balch) Lake, was born in Topsfield, June 13, 1838, and married, in Topsfield, Dec. 8, 1864, Ephraim Perkins Averill. Now lives in Topsfield.

NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM SALEM NEWSPAPERS

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

(*Continued from Vol. XV (1910), page 156.*)

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The Summer Terms in this Seminary will commence on MONDAY, the first day of June next, to continue twelve weeks.

The school is open for males and females. Instruction will be given, as may be desired, in the various studies connected with a common mercantile or classical education, and appropriate instruction to those who wish to become qualified as *teachers.*

Board in families in the immediate neighbourhood of the school can be obtained at prices varying from $2.50 to $1.50.

Tuition, $5 and $6 the term.

ALFRED W. PIKE, Principal.
Salem Gazette, May 29, 1835.

FOR THE SALEM GAZETTE.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

MR. EDITOR,—I am sincerely rejoiced to see some of the good people of Salem, after so long a season of lethargic sleep, awaking to their true interest, and giving their attention to such public improvements as are intimately associated with the future prosperity of your beautiful town. I must confess myself in no slight degree astonished that even a solitary individual should be found sceptical as to the necessity or expediency of prosecuting the projected improvements. I am aware that in times gone by, diminutive minds have stigmatized and ridiculed some of the noblest benefactors of their race, as wild and scheming visionaries, but the fruits of a Fulton's skill and of a Clinton's discernment and perseverance, show with how little foundation. If there are any now who honestly doubt the utility and advan-

tage to Salem of the works to which allusion has been made, I would respectfully request them to look at New York and other places which have experienced the renovating power of improvement. Let them compare their present condition with the past. On the borders of every canal and railroad, the busy hum of industry is heard, numerous villages have sprung into existence, as by the magic of enchantment, while those villages and towns previously in being, by enjoying the good fortune to be immediately on the routes, have doubled and in some instances trebled their population and business. Cause and effect, all things equal, must be proportionately the same everywhere. I cannot, therefore, allow myself to believe that the project of a railroad from Salem to Boston will be abandoned. I trust that all interested in this matter,—like the spirited individuals who have recently purchased the Crowninshield wharf,—will do something more than talk.

Availing myself of the privilege of your columns, I would invite public attention to the subject of *extending* the talked of improvement. I wish to see *Salem and Haverhill connected by a canal.* I presume no individual expects that merely a railroad from Salem to Boston, however great the advantage resulting from it, is the only improvement necessary to be made to preserve that town, and with it the old County of Essex—for the interests of both are blended—from going further in the retrotrade march. I presume likewise, that it is not generally known, or even thought of, that a canal might be more easily and cheaply constructed from Salem to Haverhill than on almost any other route, of the same distance, in the country. But such I believe to be the fact. From the head of tide water in Bass River in Beverly, to Wenham Pond, is but a fraction more than a mile. From the north end of this pond it is but a few rods to another smaller pond.

From thence it is about one fourth of a mile to the Great Swamp in Wenham, through which runs the Ipswich river from Topsfield. Thus it will be perceived that the excavations from Salem to Topsfield would be but about three and an half or four miles in length (one third of which is low land), and not one deep excavation to be made in the whole distance. From the pleasant and thrifty village of Topsfield, I would proceed thro' a part of Boxford to that interesting and business-like place, New-Rowley, and from thence to the nearest and most practicable place on the Merrimack, in Bradford. I believe that the whole route from Topsfield to the Merrimack is perfectly feasible, and may be accomplished without any deep excava-

tions. Thus by a railroad and canal from Boston to Haverhill, the distance would not be more than four or five miles further, through Salem, then by the stage route from Boston to Haverhill direct.

But here a question of benefit arises. Who will be benefitted by the accomplishment of this project? I answer: The city of Boston, the towns of Lynn, Salem, Beverly, Wenham, Topsfield, Boxford, New-Rowley, Bradford, and Haverhill, together with every town in the immediate vicinity of those through which it passes. In fact, the whole county of Essex will be highly benefitted, for the suggested route passes through its very centre. Make this improvement, and I will venture to predict that in a few years this medium of intercommunication will be extended to the Winnepisseogee Lake, in New Hampshire, thus concentrating the trade from New Hampshire and the north part of Vermont, and securing a sure, convenient, and ready conveyance for all the productions of the earth from this large tract of farming country, as well as for an abundance of ship and other timber, which is at this time worth but a mere trifle. It would likewise prevent many of our most enterprising young men from emigrating to the far west to find a better field for their enterprise.

Once more, and I have done for the present. If the citizens of Salem and Beverly would unite to make the Beverly Bridge a free thoroughfare, it would greatly tend to build up the two places. This, with the improvements that are now making on the road from Beverly to Topsfield, which, by the by, will be the nearest route, by about a mile, from Salem to Haverhill, and something more than a mile from Salem to Newburyport, will in a great measure secure to Salem the travel, and consequently a good share of the business, from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

An Essex County Farmer.
Salem Gazette, June 19, 1835.

Hon. N. Cleaveland of Topsfield was elected President of the Essex County Temperance Society at a meeting held in South Danvers.

Salem Gazette, July 28, 1835.

Topsfield, July 28, 1835.

Public Notice is hereby given, that I have this day impounded in the Town Pound of Topsfield whereof Joseph Wildes is Pound keeper, one Horse, red or bay color, dark mane and tail

—not any shoes on his feet, supposed to be about seven years old, which horse I found going at large in the public highway in said town, and for that cause impounded the same. The owner to me is unknown.

CYRUS KNEELAND, Field driver.
Salem Gazette, August 18, 1835.

SALUTARIUM.

Dr. Merriam will open his house in Topsfield for the reception of Invalids and those affected with chronic complaints in Medicine or Surgery. Various kinds of baths will be provided and carriages for short excursions in the surrounding country.

Disorders of the chest, bowels and skin, and particularly of children, will probably be more benefitted by a few weeks residence in the country than in any other situation.

Kind attentions may be relied on for moderate compensations.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 15, 1835.

To the Honorable Court of County Commissioners for the County of Essex:

The subscribers respectfully represent that the road leading from the meeting-house in Topsfield in said County to the Court House in Ipswich, is narrow, circuitous, so much incumbered with snow in winter as to be kept open with extreme difficulty, and that public convenience and necessity requires that the same should be widened and straightened.

They therefore request your honors to widen, straighten, and in several places to new locate; or make such alterations in the same highway as your honors may deem expedient.

R. A. Merriam and 41 others.

Topsfield, Oct. 12th, 1835.

The County Commissioners advertised a hearing on this petition at the Topsfield Hotel on Dec. 12th.

Salem Gazette, November 6, 1835.

SUPREME COURT. We have copied in another column a brief report of a trial, which attracted some attention in this town, last week, viz, the cause of a libel, brought by Mr. ALFRED W. PIKE, of Topsfield, against Messrs. BEALS and GREENE, publishers of the Boston Morning Post. Readers will please to bear in mind, that this report is the statement of the defendants in the case, and will of course make just as large deductions from its impartiality as they may think this circumstance requires.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 1, 1835.

CASE OF ALFRED W. PIKE,

against CHARLES GORDON GREENE and WILLIAM BEALS, for alleged Libels on said Pike, published in the "Boston Morning Post," on the 2d and 14th of May last.—Damages laid at *ten thousand dollars*. The trial came on before the Supreme Judicial Court, holden at Salem, (His Honor Judge Putman on the Bench,) on Monday the 23d inst., and lasted til Saturday the 28th. Counsel for the Plaintiff, Rufus Choate and Asahel Huntington, Esqrs., for the Defendants, Leverett Saltonstall and George Wheatland, Esqrs.

It was stated in the Post on Monday last, in an editorial paragraph, announcing the commencement of this trial, that the Reporter would be present, for the purpose of reporting it for the Post. Facts, however, were developed in the progress of the trial, and incontrovertibly proved, and not even contested, of so extraordinary a character—unparalleled in the history of judicial proceedings—and so utterly improper to be published in a newspaper, that the original intention of giving in the columns of the Post a detailed report has been abandoned, but as considerable curiosity has been expressed by those who have become partially acquainted with the facts referred to, to learn the full particulars, a report in pamphlet form will be prepared and published with all possible expedition, but notwithstanding the exclusion of those facts which had a controlling weight with the jury, still there are others in the case sufficient to indicate the nature of the Libel, and the justification relied on by the Defendants.

Pike, the plaintiff, has been a teacher in classical schools, in Boston and various other places, for the past twenty years, and now is, and has been for the last year, the preceptor of the Topsfield Academy in this state. The Defendants are the publishers of the Boston Morning Post, in which appeared on the 2d of May last, a communication charging Mr. Pike with "brutal cruelty" towards Sarah B. Jay, a little girl whom he took to bring up, as one of his own children. The communication stated that Mr. Pike took her to Topsfield, where the child suffered the utmost cruelty, that "her food had been chiefly Indian meal and water, that she had been compelled to sleep on straw in an upper room, with scarcely covering enough to keep life in her, and during the last rigorous winter exposed so as to freeze her feet and hands badly, that he sent her to the Alms-House, from which, at her mother's request, he sent her back to Boston half naked and reduced to the lowest state of wretchedness."

In reply to this communication, a certificate dated "Topsfield May 6," and signed by seven highly respectable gentlemen of that town, was published in the Essex Register. This certificate stated that the signers had investigated the subject, and were satisfied that there was no just cause of complaint against Mr. and Mrs. Pike in respect to the girl. Her sickly appearance and diseased feet were declared "to be the consequence of her own personal conduct," etc. Mr. Greene copied this certificate into the Post on the 14th of May, and appended to it some severe and argumentative comments, which were alleged by the plaintiff to be more libellous than the original communication.

Among a countless host of other facts, it was proved by unimpeached and unimpeachable testimony, that in September, 1834, Mrs. Pike applied to Mrs. Howard, the child's mother, for her, she being then seven years old, that Mrs. Pike engaged to treat her as her own child, and educate her so as to qualify her to keep at school, etc., that, if the child became sick, or either party became dissatisfied, she was to be sent home, that she was of an amiable disposition, of considerable aptitude, and cleanly in her habits and about her work, that she required firm, but gentle treatment, and that it would not answer for more than one person to undertake to control her, and it was expressly stipulated "that Mrs. Pike would not allow any one but herself to govern her."

In November, Mr. Pike removed with his family to Topsfield., in December, while there was snow on the ground, the girl was seen, as often as six times a day, fetching water from the pump, without any bonnet, in a short-sleeved gown, and with her toes protruding through her shoes. Sometime in the course of the winter, the date not being fixed by any witness, numerous sores broke out in various parts of the child's body, and Mrs. Pike at different times, administered salts to her, and afterwards, and very properly gave her gruel.

Early in February, through disease, or some otherwise inexplicable cause, she fell into habits of extreme personal uncleanliness, her feet being at the same time afficted with chilblains. She was then put to sleep on a straw bed on the floor, as stated, for the remainder of the time she lived with Mr. Pike. After a short period her bed was never moved, nor was there ever any fire in the room. The witnesses for the plaintiff testified that, on account of her offensive appearance, she was kept in this chamber all the time, excepting school hours, when she was allowed to come down into the kitchen or run in the cellar for exercise. It was also testified by them, that *after* the child's feet became

sore it was the standing rule of the family, that she was not to fetch water. No physician was ever called to her, as she was not regarded as a sick child, because she had a great appetite. She was therefore treated as obstinate and sullen, and besides the rod, singular and unheard of methods were resorted to, to subdue her supposed disposition, and insupportable habits. She was compelled to take nauseaus and unnatural substances, one of which, *and infinitely the* LEAST *revolting*, was ASSAFOETIDA. During this time, she became very thin and pale, and, in the language of the plaintiffs' witness, "looked as sick as little Joseph when they had the doctor to him." Finally, in April, Mr. Pike took the girl to the Topsfield almshouse, stating what her habits were, and that his wife could not live in the house with her, and adding that the child must be taken into the almshouse, for he "was afraid she would die on his hands." The overseers of the poor at Topsfield objected to keeping the child in the almshouse, because she did not belong there, and after a controversy with Mr. Pike on the subject, he sent a letter by one of them to the child's mother, informing her where her daughter was and she at once insisted upon having her brought home.

On the Monday following she was brought home, in such a diseased and helpless state as to create a great excitement in and about Myrtle Street, where Mrs. Howard, the mother, resided. Physicians were called in, and neighbors thronged the premises. The child's feet were gashed and ulcerated, and part of a little toe lost, from the effects of frost or chilblains, or both. She was described by the witnesses to be "destitute of flesh," and the hip to have cut through the skin. The testimony of the physicians—Flint, Jackson, Strong and Shattuck—was full and clear that she was very much diseased internally. Dr. Shattuck was summoned on the part of Mr. Pike, but was more decisive in his testimony then his medical brethren, as to the state of the little girl's health. He considered the external sores or wounds, and the toe, "as but a drop in the bucket, compared with the deep toned disease of her abdominal viscera," etc. Her complaint was of a chronic character, deeply seated—in other words, of long standing. Upon coming to the knowledge of these facts, a benevolent gentleman wrote the original communication which appeared in the Post, having first satisfied Mr. Greene of its truth.

About 10 witnesses were summoned, and the trial was conducted with as much skill and professional pertinacity as if it had been for the life or death of the plaintiff. The efforts of the respective counsel were arduous in the extreme, and indefa-

tigable—the cross-examination being conducted with great severity, and almost interminable minuteness. The closing arguments were upon the facts mainly, and avoided personality on both sides. The charge by JUDGE PUTMAN, on Saturday, was liberal towards the press, and the defendants, vindicating them from all express malice, but near the conclusion suggested that they had failed to prove that the child had been fed chiefly on Indian meal, but on the contrary had had the same food generally as the rest of the family. He asked the jury to look at the condition of the child when Mr. Pike took her from, and what it was when he sent her home to, her mother. He hoped the jury would, in considering the case, allow their minds to sink down to the naked facts, and not look at them in the aspect they assumed when mixed up with the eloquence or ingenuity of the counsel on either side. Thus instructed, the jury retired, and in an hour sent word to the Judge that they had agreed upon a verdict. At half past two they came into court, with a verdict for the plaintiff, giving him ONE DOLLAR damages.

This verdict throws the costs of the court upon the plaintiff, with the exceptions of *twenty five cents.*

N. B. The little girl was not examined as a witness by either party, and all the substantial matters of the defence were proved by witnesses not related to her. On the other hand, it was testified to by three members of Mr. Pike's family—his daughter, wife's mother and a young domestic—that she was well fed comfortably clad, and had a good supply of bed clothes.

Salem Gazette, December 1, 1835.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at Topsfield on Friday and Saturday the 4th and 5th of December inst. Lectures will be delivered by Roger S. Howard of Newburyport., Rev. Dr. Emerson, and Rev. Mr. John Wayland of Salem., Mr. Samuel R. Hall of Andover., Rev. Leonard Withington of Newbury., and Mr. Christopher Dunken of Cambridge. All the Lectures, by a vote of the Association, are to be followed by discussions.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 3, 1835.

TO THE HONORABLE COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, FOR THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

The Subscribers respectfully represent, that the road leading from the Meeting house in Topsfield, in said County, to the

Court House in Ipswich, is narrow, circuitous, so much incumbered with snow in the winter, as to be kept open with extreme difficulty, and that public convenience and necessity require that the same should be widened and straightened, and in several places to new locate, or make such alterations in the same Highway, as your Honors may deem expedient.

R. A. MERRIAM, and 39 others.

The County Commissioners advertised a hearing on the petition at the Topsfield Hotel on March 8th.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 29, 1836.

DIED, in Topsfield, Jacob Towne, Esq. aged 67 years, and 8 months. The family of the deceased not called upon alone to part with one whose loss is unspeakably great—and when we say that the town in which he lived has lost one of its most useful citizens, in the death of Mr. Towne, we speak the feelings of all who knew him. In early life he received a common education, such as was afforded the youth 60 years ago, but having a mind fraught with ambition for intellectual improvement, he has ever applied himself with that assiduity and success which characterises a scholar, and prepared himself for usefulness. His counsel has ever been sought in all most important town affairs, and obtained with decision and accuracy. Many important town offices were invested in him, the various duties of which he performed with correctness and fidelity. A seat in our present legislature has become vacated by his death—and when we say that no man has been more untiring during 50 years for the promotion and happiness for people among whom he lived, we delineate the character of Jacob Towne, Esq.

Comm.

Salem Gazette, April 7, 1836.

A man was examined, in Topsfield, on Saturday, for an alledged attempt to commit an aggravated offence. The examination was postponed, to await further evidence.

Salem Gazette, May 3, 1836.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

The semi-annual meeting of the Essex County Teacher's Association will be held at Topsfield, on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 20th and 21st May inst. Lectures, to be followed by Discussions will be delivered as follows: viz:

On Friday at 10 o'clock, a lecture by REV. SAMUEL NOTT, JR. of Wareham. Subject—"What is a good school?"

At half past 11 o'clock, a Lecture by ALFRED GREENLEAF, of Salem, on "Discipline."

At 2 o'clock, P. M. a Lecture by FREDERIC A. BARTON, of Andover, on "Co-operation between Parents and Teachers."

At half past 3 o'clock, a Lecture by REV. MR. DURANT of Newbury, on "The importance and best method of communicating Moral Instruction."

On Saturday, at half-past nine o'clock A. M. a Lecture by ROBERT RANTOUL, Esq. of Gloucester, on "Political Science as a branch of Popular Education."

At 11 o'clock, a Lecture by REV. DR. EMERSON, of Salem, on "The use of the Bible in Schools."

School Committees and friends of education are invited to attend.

DAVID CHOATE, Cor. Sec.
Salem Gazette, May 13, 1836.

The County Commissioners have granted innholder's licenses to John Rea and Susannah Cummings of Topsfield, the latter being authorized to sell fermented liquors only.
Salem Gazette, Aug. 2, 1836.

Dr. *Jeremiah Stone*, of Topsfield, has been appointed, by Brig. Gen. Low, Brigade Major and Inspector of the 2d Brigade, 2d Division, in place of *Samuel W. Stickney, Esq.* promoted.
Salem Gazette, Aug. 2, 1836.

NOTICE. A meeting of the Board of managers of the Essex County Anti-Slavery Society will be held at the Hotel in Topsfield on the second Wednesday of August, at 2 o'clock P. M. for special business. Per order of the Board.

J. G. WHITTIER, Sec'ty.
Salem Gazette, Aug. 9, 1836.

A new Light Infantry Company has been formed in Topsfield, and will make its appearance this fall with full ranks, and in an elegant uniform which they are having made in this city. The company is commanded by Capt. CONANT.
Salem Gazette, Sept. 16, 1836.

The troops of the 2d Brigade 2d Division, will parade for inspection and review, at *Topsfield*, on Tuesday, the fourth of

October. They consist of a Regiment of Light Infantry, under Colonel Chauncey Hastings, a Battalion of Cavalry under Major Dodge, and a Battalion of Artillery under Major Bradbury. They will be inspected by Major Jere'h Stone of Topsfield, and reviewed by Brigadier General Low. The whole number of companies included in this parade will be thirteen,—two of Cavalry, two of Artillery, and nine of Light Infantry. An uncommonly fine military display may be expected from so large an assemblage of the elite troops of the northern section of this country.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 24, 1836.

FIRE IN TOPSFIELD.

On Monday morning a fire broke out in the premises of Mr. John Rea Jr. in Topsfield, by which the Tavern House, together with a large barn, and a store belonging to that gentleman, were destroyed.

We are informed by persons who were at the spot, that the fire originated in the barn, the contents of which—a large quantity of hay, grain, etc., two horses, several hogs, two chaises and two or three wagons, were destroyed.

Considerable of the house furniture was consumed, and also many other articles in the house, including a gold watch. Mr. Perley's store on the opposite side of the street, was preserved with great difficulty. It is supposed that the fire was the work of an incendiary as it was first discovered in a part of the barn not occupied as a tavern stable, and into which no one had been known to carry a light.

Mr. Rea was aroused at about one o'clock and the alarm reached Salem a little before two. Two engines from Danvers and one from New Rowley were present.

Engines also started from Salem—that from Boston Street had made considerable progress on the road when it was stopped by a message from the Chief Engineer of our Fire Department, who was at the fire.

☞After the fire was in type, we received from a correspondent an account of the fire, in which he says—"Mr. Rea saved literally nothing from the devouring element. He had barely time to save the lives of himself and family. The whole loss is estimated at five thousand dollars. There was an insurance by the Merrimack Mutual Fire Ins. Co. (Andover) of two thousand dollars on the buildings which however was held for the benefit of an individual having a mortgage of the premises.

The Loss to Mr. Rea is total, and we hope a liberal public will remember him in this hour of calamity and need.

His whole substance is consumed in a night, and all his prospects for the support of himself and his family blasted, as it were, in an instant.

He has the sympathies of his townsmen, and we hope they, and others, of their abundance will give him substantial proofs by their deeds, as well as by their words.

This is the first considerable fire which has ever taken place in the town, from its settlement, and we regret to add, that it was, beyond question, the work of an incendiary.

Topsfield, Oct. 17, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 18, 1836.

No doubt is entertained in Topsfield, that the late fire in that town was caused by an incendiary, It will be seen that the Selectman have offered a reward for the detention of the villain who could commit so great a crime.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

☞The subscriber presents his thanks to his townsmen for their prompt, though unsuccessful attempts to save his property from distruction by fire, on the morning of the 17th inst.

Topsfield, Oct. 19, 1836.

JOHN REA.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

☞The subscribers tender their thanks to their fellow townsmen for their unwearied efforts in saving their property, when in the most eminent danger of being destroyed by the burning of Capt. John Rea's establishment.

They also tender their thanks to the Firemen of Danvers and Rowley, for their prompt attendance when notified of the danger of our village, and the good feeling manifested on the occasion.

Frederick Perley
Samuel Gould
John Wright
Benj. Kimball.

Topsfield, Oct. 19, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

CARD. The Selectman of Topsfield, tender their thanks to the several Engine Companies, and other citizens, for their prompt and ready assistance at the Fire at Topfield Village on the 17th instant.

Willliam Hubbard, Samuel Bradstreet, David Towne. } Selectmen of Topsfield.

Oct. 20, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

☞The members of the Danvers Engine Company No.3 return their strong gratitude to Frederick Perley and those citizens of Topsfield who so liberally provided them with refreshments whilst there, and conveyance home from the late fire in that town.

Ezekiel Osborn, Clerk.

Danvers, Oct. 21, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

Two Hundred Dollars Reward. WHEREAS, there is reason to believe that the Fire in Topsfield Village on Monday morning, 16th inst. which consumed the Dwelling House and other buildings of Capt. John Rea, was the work of an incendiary, the above reward will be paid to any person who shall furnish information which will lead to the detection and conviction of the perpetrator.

WILLIAM HUBBARD, SAM'L BRADSTREET, DAVID TOWNE. } Selectman.

Topsfield, Oct. 20, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1836.

We learn that the Light Infantry Company, lately formed in Topsfield, called the Topsfield Warren Blues, will celebrate their first Anniversary by a public parade on Thursday next, accompanied by the Boston Brass Band, when a new and elegant standard (painted by Mr. Luke R. Prince, jr. of Beverly), will be presented to the Company by the Ladies of Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 25, 1836.

CARD. The Boxford Washington Guards, tender their grateful acknowledgements to the Topsfield Warren Blues, for the kindness, hospitality, and good feelings toward them on the 27th inst.

A. W. Perley, Clerk.

Boxford, Oct. 31

CARD. The Boxford Washington Guards, tender their sincere thanks to Asa Pingree, and Wm. Munday, Esq's, for the politeness and liberality towards the corps on the 27th inst.

A. W. Perley, Clerk.

Boxford, Oct. 31.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 8, 1836.

ESSEX CO. TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION. The 7th Annual Meeting of the *Esssx County Teacher's Association* will be held at Topsfield, on *Friday* and *Saturday*, the 2d and 3d December next.

The following Lectures may be expected viz.—

ON FRIDAY,

At 10 o'clock, A. M., a Lecture on Originalty in the Teacher, by Mr. David Choate, of Essex.

At 11 o'clock, a Lecture on the comparative merits of Private and Common Schools, by Rev. Theodore Edson, of Lowell. At 2 o'clock, P. M., a Lecture on the subject of Grammer, by Dr. Daniel Perley, of Lynn. At 3 o'clock, a Lecture on the same subject, by Mr. Samuel R. Hall of Andover.

ON SATURDAY.

At half past 9, A. M. a Lecture on Teaching Orthography, by Mr. Frederick A. Adams, of Andover. At half past 11, a Lecture by Rev. G. B. Perry, of Bradfrod, subject, What favorable influence can the Christian Ministry exert upon Common Schools."

By a vote of the Association all Lectures will be followed by discussions.

The session will commence at 9 o'clock, A. M. on Friday, and close at noon on Saturday.

Teachers of both sexes, members of school committees, and friends of education generally, are respectfully invited to be present, and contribute to the interest of the occasion.

Per order,

JOHN BATCHELDER,

Rec. Sec'y.

Lynn, Nov. 14, 1836.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 25, 1836.

CAPITAL CASE.

A Magistrates' Court was held last week at Topsfield before John W. Proctor, Esq., for the examination of Miss Eliza Porter Bradstreet, a maiden lady of a respectable family, on a complaint made against her, charging her with the crime of Arson, in setting fire to the dwelling house and buildings of Capt. John Rea, in Topsfield, a few weeks since.

The examination is not finished.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 13, 1836.

By consent of parties and for reasons that were thought sufficient, the time for the hearing in relation to the charge of setting fire to the buildings of Capt. Rea in Topsfield on the 17th of Oct. last (mentioned in Tuesday Gazette) is postponed to Monday, Feby 20.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 16, 1836.

ANOTHER FIRE IN TOPSFIELD.

Last Monday at 3 P. M. a fire broke out in the barn of Mr. Josiah Gould of Topsfield, which was consumed with all his winter stock of hay and grain, together with a wood shed, etc. etc.

Loss estimated at about $1000.

By great exertions the adjoining dwelling house owned by Capt Kilham was saved.

There is we learn no way of accounting for this fire. Mr. Gould is a worthy, hard laboring man, and his loss is very severe.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 16, 1836.

CARDS. The subscriber tenders his thanks to his fellow townsmen and others, for their unwearied exertions at the fire on the 12th inst. by which his dwelling house was saved when in imminent danger.

JOSIAH GOULD.

Topsfield, Dec. 15.

The subscriber tenders his thanks to his fellow townsmen and others, for their unwearied exertions in saving his property, when in imminent danger of being destroyed, by the burning of Mr. Josiah Gould's barn on the 12th inst.

ISAAC KILHAM.

Topsfield, Dec. 15.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 23, 1836.

NOTICE. The Association of Salem and Vicinity will meet at the house of Rev. Mr. McEwen in Topsfield, on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1837, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

S. M. WORCESTER, Scribe.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 3, 1837.

FOR THE SALEM GAZETTE.

Mr. Editor—Will you please to insert in your paper the following interesting facts of a cow raised and owned by Mr. Samuel Bradstreet of this town, which he killed this winter at the age of 21 years. This cow has brought him 18 calves, which have been worth when five weeks old $5 each, $ 90 00

She has furnished him at a moderate calculation 6 quarts of milk per day for 9 months in each of the last 18 years, which has been worth 5 cents per quart, making the sum of 1474 20

Now Mr. Bradstreet goes into this nice calculation, and says, when I killed "Old Star," this winter, she was worth at least, for she was very fat, $25. 25 00

$1589 20

Then he sets to "Old Star's" Dr. as follows:

Had I killed her when a calf she would have been worth	$ 5 00	
Cost for keeping till she was 3 years old,	15 00	
Cost for keeping the last 18 years at $20 per year.	360 00	
		380 00
Balance in favor of "Old Star,"		$1209 20

Now, Mr. Editor, perhaps some may doubt the credibility of the above statement, but I have not the least doubt but that Mr. Bradstreet has been perfectly honest in the account which he has kept between himself and "Old Star." If he has deviated in any particular, it is in the charges he has made for her keeping, as all who know the worth of keeping a cow will agree with me in saying that $20 is more than an average worth the last eighteen years. I am fully persuaded that in this county not an equal is to be found for Mr. Bradstreet's "Old Star."

Topsfield, Jan. 28, 1837.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 31, 1837.

Topsfield, Jan. 30, 1837.

Mr. Editor—On the 24th inst. there was killed in Boxford, by Mr. Spofford, a large Wildcat, which had taken possession of the barn, and was indulging in the pleasures of life by feasting on two fat hens. He weighed 75 pounds, and measured from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail 4 and a half feet.

Communicated.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 3, 1837.

In the House [of Representatives] Mr. Andrew of Salem, presented a petition of Nathaniel Conant and others, praying payment of compensation for military services to the members of a Light Infantry Company in Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 7, 1837.

Hon. Nehemiah Cleaveland, whose death is announced in our obituary column, was one of the most respected and distinguished citizens of Essex County. He was the son of the eminent divine, Rev. John Cleaveland, of Essex, and under the charge of his pious and learned father received a good education in literature and virtuous principles. Dr. Cleaveland possessed a vigorous mind, a sound judgment, and extensive knowledge. His long life has been spent in acts of usefulness, and a conscientious discharge of all the duties of life. Integrity, justice, benevolence, and piety controlled his thoughts and actions. He was zealously devoted, through life, to the promotion of the interests of the best institutions, of the church, and of his country. In early life, his ardent patriotism compelled him to take arms and serve several years in the revolutionary army. The suffrages of his fellow citizens, for a series of years placed him in the Senate of our State. His good sense, vivacity, and familiar acquaintance with the interesting scenes of our history, and his social intercourse with the eminent citizens of our State in past times, rendered his conversation attractive and instructive. In all the relations of life he fulfilled his duty, and his family, his friends, and the whole community will cherish his memory with reverence and respect.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 28, 1837.

The examination of Elizabeth P. Bradstreet on a charge of arson, was resumed on Tuesday last at Topsfield, before Justices Mack and Proctor, and continued till Friday evening, and was then adjourned to tomorrow.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 28, 1837.

The examination of Miss Bradstreet at Topsfield, before Justices, Mack and Proctor, was completed on Friday last, and after able and eloquent arguments by Mr. Huntington, District Attorney for the government, and Mr. Saltonstall, counsel for the accused, the decision was that there were no sufficient grounds for her commitment and she was discharged.

So strong was the feeling in Topsfield, in her favor, that her acquittal was hailed with various demonstrations of joy.

[Register.]

Salem Gazette, Mar. 7, 1837.

GENERAL COURT.

The Resolve on the petition of Nath'l Conant and others, was taken up in the orders of the day. This resolve provides for paying the members of the "Warren Blues," a Light Infantry Company in Topsfield, the sum of five dollars each for their military services for 1836, being the sum allowed by law to volunteer companies, although this corps was not fully organized at the last May inspection. Mr. Billings of Conway, called for the facts in relation to this case. Mr. Andrew, of Salem, chairman of the Military committee on the part of the House, answered the call. A motion for indefinite postponement was made, and supported by several gentlemen. Messrs. Kinsman and Blake of Boston, and Andrew of Salem, opposed the motion; and the latter gentleman gave an account of the formation, the necessity for, and the popularity of this company, in the town of Topsfield—and stated, that upon the decision of this question depended in a great degree the fate of the Volunteer companies; for unless this was received with favor by the House, much of that zeal now enlisted in the cause, would be dampened, &c. The motion to postpone was lost, and the Resolve passed, by a majority of about fifty.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 14, 1837.

NOTICE.

FREDERICK J. MERRIAM, of Topsfield, Drover, has assigned, for the benefit of all his creditors, all his property, real and personal, not exempted by law from attachment.

Creditors may become parties to the assignment by calling on

R. A. MERRIAM,
NATH'L PERLEY.
Assignees.

Topsfield, April 14, 1837.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 25, 1837.

BY ORDER OF COURT.

On the 11th of May next, at 2 o'clock, P. M. will be sold by Auction,

Part of the Farm now occupied by JOSHUA TOWNE, of Topsfield, yeoman, for the payment of his debts. Terms made known at the sale.

SAMUEL BRADSTREET,
Guard ad.

Topsfield, April 25, 1837.

Salem Gazette, May 5, 1837.

Boarding and Tuition.

SIX small Boys and Girls may receive Board, Tuition, and parental care in the family of the subscriber.

JAMES F. McEWEN.

Topsfield, May 5, 1837.

Salem Gazette, May 9, 1837.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The semi-annual meeting of the *Essex County Teachers' Association* will be held at Topsfield on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, the 26th and 27th of the present month, May :—The following Lectures may be expected :—

ON FRIDAY,

At 10 o'clock A. M. a lecture on Grammar by Mr. Samuel R. Hall of Andover.

At 2 P. M. a lecture on "Defects of Common Schools," by Rev. Milton P. Braman of Danvers.

ON SATURDAY,

At half past nine A. M. a lecture on Discipline, by Mr. Moses Burbank of Hampton Falls.

At half past ten o'clock, a lecture on English Composition, by Newton E. Marble of Dover.

By a vote of the Association all lectures are followed by discussions.

The session will commence at 9 o'clock A. M. on Friday, and close at noon on Saturday.

Teachers of both sexes, members of school Committees, and

the friends of education generally are respectfully invited to be present and contribute to the interest of the occasion,

Per order,
J. BATCHELDER, Rec. Sec.

Lynn, May 22, 1837.

Salem Gazette, May 23, 1837.

HAVERHILL AND CONCORD STAGE.

[Wood cut of a stagecoach]

THE Stage for Haverhill and Concord, starts from Salem, at 7 o'clock in the morning, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Stage Office, Lafayette Coffee House.

Salem, July 4, 1837.

Salem Gazette, July 4, 1837.

Essex Court of County Commissioners, July Term, 1837.

The proposed new road in Topsfield and Hamilton, prayed for by S. Bradstreet and others, is not granted.

A license was granted at the Topsfield Hotel, to a new occupant, since the last term—and this is the only license granted.

On examining the votes for County Treasurer, it was found that there were no returns from Amesbury, Marblehead and Middleton, and that the votes from Andover, Bradford, Haverhill, Essex and Topsfield, were not certified in the form required by law. Officers of towns should be careful to know their duty, and to do it correctly.

Salem Gazette, July 18, 1837.

The Salem Mechanic Light Infantry carried off ninety men in uniform, early on Wednesday morning. They were hospitably entertained with a collation, in front of the Village Bank, by citizens of North Danvers. At the Topsfield line, they were met by the Topsfield Warren Blues, who escorted the Mechanics to the Hotel, where both companies partook of a sumptuous breakfast.

Salem Gazette, July 28, 1837.

CAMPAIGN
OF THE
SALEM MECHANIC LIGHT INFANTRY.

IN CAMP—NEW ROWLEY
Wednesday Evening, July 26, 1837.

Took up our line of march from Salem to Newburyport, 15 minutes past 5, A. M., by Buffum's Corner to North Danvers,

to the Village Bank, favored with one of the most delightful summer mornings, and there entertained with a hot breakfast, which was very acceptable, provided by the citizens of North Danvers. Again took up our march to Topsfield—were met on the dividing line by the Topsfield Light Infantry, under the command of Capt. Conant, and escorted to Topsfield, and again entertained at the house of Capt. Munday, with a bounteous collation, provided by the Topsfield Warren Blues. After partaking, formed Morning Parade—Company Orders for the day were read by the Adjutant. Lt. Kimball Officer of the day—Serg't Stedman Officer of the Police. Again took up our march to New Rowley, accompanied by Capt. Conant's Company. After a short march, partook of the refreshments by the politeness of Mr. John Peabody, of Boxford. Parted with our Topsfield friends, and after marching a short distance were met by the New Rowley Lafayette Guards, under the command of Capt. Howe—escorted by the same into New Rowley, to our place of encampment. [The remainder of the account relates to Newburyport, Ipswich, etc.]

Salem Gazette, Aug. 1, 1837.

Great Turnip. We were shown yesterday an enormous Turnip, of the common round sort, raised in Topsfield. It was 26 inches in diameter, and nearly 4, in thickness.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 25, 1837.

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Exhibition by the Society will be at Topsfield, on Wednesday, September 27th.

All claims for premiums to be awarded on the day of exhibition, must be entered with the Secretary of the Society, or his agent, on or before 9 o'clock, A. M., of that day.

All other claims for premiums must be handed or forwarded to the Secretary in writing.

All articles of domestic manufacture must be entered and deposited at the Hall, to be provided for this purpose, by 9 o'clock, A. M.

These articles will be examined and arranged by the Committee,—and at 12 o'clock, will be opened for public examination.

All animals or articles exhibited must remain for public inspection until 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Ploughing Match will take place at 10 o'clook, A. M.

Butter, Cheese, Fruits and Flowers, will be deposited in the Hall to be provided for this purpose.

Agricultural Implements will be deposited in the same room.

Gentlemen, who have articles or fruit that will increase the interest of the show, are respectfully requested to bring them forward.

The Members of the Society and invisted guests, will dine together at the VILLAGE HOTEL, at 1 o'clock, P. M. Tickets for the dinner can be obtained of Mr. Wm. Munday.

At 3 o'clock, P. M., there will be a meeting of the Society at the Meeting House, where an Address will be delivered by the Rev. N. Gage of Haverhill,—and the Reports of Committees read, and premiums awarded, &c. The Annual Meeting for the choice of Officers, and transaction of the business of the Society will then follow.

In the morning the Trustees will meet at Mr. Munday's Hotel, where the Secretary will be ready to receive entries, &c. &c.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements.

R. A. MERRIAM, Chairman.

J. W. PROCTOR, Sec'ry.

Topsfield, Sept. 14, 1837.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 15, 1837.

Among the military companies present at the annual inspection and review at West Bradford was one from Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 15, 1837.

A short time since, some rogue entered the Methodist Meeting House in Topsfield, and stole quite a number of Bibles, Hymn Books, &c.

The Dwelling House of Dr. Merriam, in Topsfield, was entered about the same time, in the middle of the day, while the family was absent, and some change which was in a box was taken, but of a small amount. The robber took several articles of wearing apparel, and broke open trunks and scattered their contents about the house.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 19, 1837.

Res. Jas. F. McEwen of Topsfield was elected Secretary of the Essex County Temperance Society at a meeting held Sept. 15th. at the Tabernacle church, Salem.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 26, 1837.

The annual Agricultural Festival was held at Topsfield, on Wednesday, 27th ult., and the farming interest from every part of the county was fully and respectably represented

The show of animals was not numerous, but there were some superior cows, and excellent working oxen. The number of fat cattle was small; there were a few young horses; there were two lots of swine of a good description and condition; of sheep there were none. The ploughing match was spiritedly contested, and much of the work was fine; the ploughs of an approved description; the teams well trained, and the ploughmen and drivers skillful and ambitious.

Of domestic and household manufactures the collection was not extensive, but commendable for the industry, patience and skill exhibited. The vegetables made a good display; there was much superior fruit, and many a beautiful boquet of flowers. There were valuable specimens of Indian corn exhibited; and other useful vegetables and products.

The Address in the afternoon, by the Rev. Mr. Gage, of Haverhill, was deservedly well received, evincing good taste and good sense; and the day was spent without any circumstance to disturb its festivities, and in a highly agreeable and useful manner.

The Address was followed by the Reports of the Committees, which were, as always, listened to with a strong interest; and we cannot doubt were made up in the exercise of a sound and discriminating judgment, reluctant to give offence, but conscientious in the performance of duty.

These exhibitions deserve every encouragement, and since the improvement in public manners which has taken place by the diminution, we wish we could say, the entire abolition, of the facilities and excitements to intemperance, many, and the only great objections to these celebrations have been removed. They bring the farmers together under circumstances adapted to excite the deepest gratitude to a beneficent Providence; they make them acquainted with each other, and produce a most beneficial interchange of kind affections and sympathies; they excite inquiry and diffuse much useful information of the condition and the improvements in agriculture and domestic industry and economy, and they produce a manly and animated competition, unmixed with any ill feelings, because here there is no monopoly; the field is open to all; and the beneficial results are in every case diffused, and universally shared by all.

A premium of $20 was awarded the citizens of Topsfield for a team of 40 yoke of working oxen.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 3, 1837.

John Wright of Topsfield has been elected one of the Directors of the Village Bank in Danvers.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 17, 1837.

Topsfield Bridge. The bridge on the Newburyport Turnpike, in Topsfield, fell through last week, and is now impassable.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 5, 1837.

Died. At Topsfield, Mr. John Fisk, 47. He died very suddenly in the street.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 8, 1837.

COURT CALENDAR.

The court of Common Pleas commenced its session in Ipswich on Monday last. Judge Strong on the bench. We learn that about 250 new civil actions were entered, a rather larger number than usual. The first civil trial, commenced after the calling of the docket was concluded on Tuesday afternoon, between Asa Pingree of Topsfield, Pltf., and Francis Curtis of Boxford, Dft. It is an action of *trover*, technically so called, which alleges that the pltf. was owner of certain to wit one cord of pine slabs, of the value of $3, which the pltf. *lost*, and which came into the possession of the dft. by *finding*, who refused to deliver the same one cord of pine slabs to the pltf. on demand, but converted the same to his own use. The form of the declaration being purely technical, the question for trial is whether the dft. had, previously to the date of the writ, any slabs in his possession which rightfully belonged to the pltf. About one hundred witnesses are in attendance. This action was originally tried before the police court in Salem, and on appeal was tried at the June term of the P. C., consuming three days time of the court, and the jury disagreed. The case is conducted with a zeal and ingenuity worthy a much better cause by Samuel H. Mann, Esq., of Lowell, for the pltf. and L. Saltonstall and N. J. Lord, Esqrs. of Salem for the dft.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 26, 1837.

At a Court of County Commissioners, held last Tuesday, a petition was presented by Charles H. Holmes and others, for a road in Topsfield, from near the house of Benjamin Symonds, to near the centre school house.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 29, 1837.

Died. In Topsfield, on the 16th inst., Mrs. Anna Averill, aged 40. She was amiable in natural character, and seriously inclined from childhood, and for several of the last years of her life, the hopeful subject of true faith in Christ. She has long been afflicted with poor health, when somewhat more than a year

ago it became evident that the fatal disease, *consumption*, was seated on her. From that time suffering much pain, she looked forward to her dissolution with christian resignation, and when death finally approached, she met his embrace without fear, as she then felt that she could commit herself to the Savior of sinners.

COM.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 19, 1838.

DIED. In Topsfield, Mr. Moses Wildes, aged 60; Mr. Robert Lake, aged 31; Mr. Richard Osborn, a revolutionary soldier, aged 99.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 23, 1838.

STATISTICS OF ESSEX COUNTY.

We copy the following account of the condition of certain branches of industry in the County of Essex, from the "Statistical Tables," prepared by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, in compliance with a Act of the Legislature, of 19th April last.

TOPSFIELD.

Common Sheep, 255, wool produced 765 lbs., average weight of fleece 3 lbs., value of wool 306, capital invested 1530.

Boots manufactured 900 pairs, Shoes 124,396 pairs; value of boots and shoes, 98,676, males employed 272, females 269.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 6, 1838.

NEW LINE OF STAGES.

A new line of Stages has been established between Salem and Haverhill. Leaving Salem on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9½ o'clock A. M. arriving in Haverhill at 1 o'clock on said days. Leaving Haverhill on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 11½ o'clock A. M. arriving in Salem at 3 o'clock, on said days.

This line is connected in Salem with other Stages, running to and from Boston, Gloucester, Ipswich, Marblehead and other places. And is connected in New Rowley with a stage running on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, to Amesbury Factory Village, Exeter and Dover;—and with a stage running on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, to Lowell.

On Mondays a stage will leave New Rowley for the Rail Road in Bradford, in season for the morning cars.—And on Saturdays will leave for New Rowley after the arrival of the evening cars.

Books kept at the Lafayette Coffee House, and Salem Hotel.

At the Eagle House in Haverhill and at Savory's Hotel in New Rowley.

Jan. 24, 1838.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 6, 1838.

[Wood cut of a stage coach.]

Haverhill and Concord Stage.

THE Stage for Haverhill and Concord starts from Salem, at 7 o'clock in the morning, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Stage office, Lafayette Coffee House.

Salem, July 4, 1837.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 16, 1838.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The Whigs of Essex County are requested to send the usual number of delegates to a convention for the nomination of candidates for County Commissioners,—at Topsfield, on MONDAY NEXT, 23d inst., at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

This notice is issued, in compliance with an unanimous vote of the Whig members of the Essex County delegation in the Legislature.

Salem, April 17.

Salem Gazette, April 17, 1838.

MR. FOOTE—In reading the Gazette of Tuesday, I noticed the calling of a "Convention" to be held at Topsfield on Monday next, for the nomination of County Commissioners. As there was no place of meeting defined, perhaps the delegates who attend would not know to which Hotel it would be at withousome further notice.

Therefore I would suggest the idea (if no particular place is determined upon) good accommodations may be had at the "Village Hotel," kept by Capt. Wm. Munday. G.

Topsfield, April 18, 1838.

Salem Gazette, April 20, 1838.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that SAMUEL GOULD hath this day assigned to the subscribers all his property, for the benefit of his creditors.

THOMAS AVERILL,
CHARLES GOULD.

Topsfield, April 27, 1838.

Salem Gazette, May 4, 1838.

NOTICE

Is hereby given, that ANSEL GOULD hath this day assigned to the subscribers all his property, for the benefit of his creditors.

JOSIAH BRADSTREET,
JOHN BRADSTREET.

Topsfield, May 19, 1838.

Salem Gazette, May 25, 1838.

A few Invalid Boarders

May be accomodated in Topsfield, with board, horse and carriage exercise, bathing, &c. Enquire of

DR. R. A. MERRIAM.

Topsfield, June 19, 1838.

Salem Gazette, June 19, 1838.

Topsfield Hotel. We notice with pleasure that this old and respectable establishment has fallen into the hands of Mr. Holland, for many years known to all travellers on the great Eastern route, as one of the most intelligent, obliging, and temperate of that exemplary body of drivers.

Salem Gazette, July 13, 1838.

At a meeting of the County Commissioners held last Tuesday morning, a petition was presented from the selectmen of Topsfield, for the discontinuance of a town way in Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, July 13, 1838.

TOPSFIELD HOTEL.

The subscriber has taken the above very spacious and commodious Hotel, on the Boston and Newburyport Turnpike, and has fitted up the same in the best manner for travellers and boarders. The situation is one of the most commanding and delightful in the country; the distance is but 20 miles from Boston, 9 miles from Salem, and 12 from Newburyport, and it is believed that few places in the vicinity of the metropolis present so many inducements for a summer residence.

The apartments are spacious and airy; the table will be supplied with the choicest products of the market, and every attention shown to individuals and families, whether they remain for a single night, or during the warm season.

JOHN HOLLAND.

Topsfield, July 13.

Salem Gazette, July 27, 1838.

To the Hon. the County Commissioners for the County of Essex, respectfully represent the subscribers, selectmen of Topsfield, in said County,

That on the sixteenth day of April last, a town-way was located in said Topsfield, beginning at a stake one rod easterly from the corner of John Sawyer's shop, thence N. 748 E. to a point on the westerly side of the Haverhill road at a point forty four feet from the southeasterly corner of Richard Phillips jr's dwellinghouse; which way in the opinion of many of the Inhabitants of said Topsfield it would be highly expedient to discontinue. And the inhabitants of said Topsfield at a legal town meeting held for that purpose, on the twelth day of June last, "Voted, that the Selectmen may be authorised and directed to petition the County Commissioners at the July term, to discontinue the road recently laid out near the meeting house on the petition of Charles H. Holmes and others."

Wherefore, in pursuance of said vote and instruction, your petitioners respectfully pray that after a hearing in the premises, the said way may be discontinued.

CORNELIUS K. BRADSTREET,
NATHANIEL PERLEY,
WILLIAM RAY,
MOSES WILDES,
A. S. PEABODY,
} Selectmen of Topsfield.

The Commissioners appointed a public hearing at the Topsfield Hotel on Aug. 15, 1838 at 9 A. M.

Salem Gazette, July 27, 1838.

Narrow Escape. The Village Hotel, at Topsfield, kept by Mr. Munday, had a narrow escape from fire, on Friday night last. A traveller had thrown the end of his cigar into one of those disgusting objects "a spitoon," filled with sawdust, and nothing occured to lead to a suspicion of any harm from it before the household retired to rest. It seems, however, that the sawdust ignited slowly, and about two o'clock in the morning a hostler sleeping in the bar room was awaked by a suffocating smoke. It was soon ascertained that the sawdust and box containing it were consumed, and that a large hole was burnt through the floor. With a little fresh air, and a little more time, the house would probably have been destroyed.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 10, 1838.

Take Notice.

STRAYED or stolen from the yard of the subscriber last Sunday night, one LIGHT RED COW, with a white face, about ten years old, one DARK RED COW, with large horns, about eight years old, one RED COW, about seven years old—Whoever will return said cows, or give information where they may be found, shall be well rewarded.

BENJAMIN PIKE.

Topsfield, Aug. 21.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 21, 1838.

The three cows, advertised in Tuesday's paper, were stolen from the pen, in Topsfield, on Sunday night last, and recovered on Monday morning. The thief is believed to be well known, but has escaped for the present. The cows were *tracked* all the way from Topsfield to Saugus, where they were found in the pound, having been driven through the toll-gate before sunrise that morning. They were offered for sale to the gatekeeper; and shortly afterward the thief was met by a couple of Topsfield men, who were unacquainted with the robbery. This meeting frightened him, probably, and he left the cows, who strayed back toward the toll-gate, where they were stopped and impounded.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 24, 1838.

TOPSFIELD, September 1st, 1838.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you please put in your paper the following:

GREAT GENEROSITY,—A gentleman in the Town of T—— found a small wallet (or pocket book,) in the town of M——. The gentleman did not ask the owner only ONE dollar for it.

Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 4, 1838.

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Exhibition by the Society will be at Topsfield, on Thursday, September 27th.

The Trustees and Committees will meet at the house of Mr. WILLIAM MUNDAY, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

All claims for premiums, to be awarded on the day of exhibition, must be entered with the Secretary of the Society, or his agent, on or before 9 o'clock, A. M., on that day.

All other claims for premiums must be handed or forwarded to the Secretary in writing.

All articles of Domestic Manufacture must be entered with the Agent of the Secretary, at the Hall, where they will be exhibited.

After the Committee have closed their examination (say about 12 o'clock), the Hall will be open for visitors.

Butter, Cheese, Fruits and Flowers, will be deposited, under the direction of the several committees, who have charge of these subjects.

All animals or articles exhibited, will be required to remain for the inspection of the public until 2 o'clock P. M.

The Ploughing Match will take place, under the direction of the committees on this subject, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The trial of Oxen and the examination of horses, will be immediately after.

Gentlemen who have fine fruits or superior vegetable productions of any kind, and who feel an interest in advancing the objects of the Society and sustaining the character of the County, are respectfully requested to bring them forward.

The members of the Society and invited guests will dine together at Mr. MUNDAY's at half-past 1 o'clock.

At 3 o'clock, P. M., the Society will meet at the Meeting House, to hear an Address by the Rev. Mr. WITHINGTON, of Newbury; after which the Reports of the several committees will be submitted, and the usual business of the Annual Meeting transacted.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements.

Attest, J. W. PROCTOR, *Sec'ry*

Topsfield, Sept. 8, 1838.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 11, 1838.

TOPSFIELD. Mr. Edward Hood has been appointed Postmaster at Topsfield, and the post office has been removed from the Hotel into the village.

Salem Gazette, September 18, 1838.

DIED. In Topsfield, on Thursday last, in the 30th year of her age, Miss Eunice Wells, daughter of Mr. Nathaniel Wells. It need not be said to those who were acquainted with the deceased that in her death we have sustained a loss which is irreparable. In the earlier part of her life she at all times exercised that uniformity of character and amiableness in her disposition which secured to her parents, brothers and sisters her constant and never tiring efforts to promote their happiness and

win to herself that affection from them which is merited but by few. And when we say that the latter part of her life was characterized by a constant devotedness to the religion which she professed, *we do* say the Church and Sabbath school have sustained a loss which will long be felt. The circumstances connected with her death are these. She left her father's house to attend the wedding of a brother who resided but a short distance. No sooner had she arrived at her brother's than she was met by the angel of death. Alas! how soon are our anticipated joys turned to grief and our expectations blasted! Surrounded as she was by a circle of her friends who with herself had assembled to enjoy the festivals of a wedding, the same can better be imagined than described.—*Com.*

Salem Gazette, September 18, 1838.

Military. The volunteer corps of the second brigade, second division, consisting of two companies of Cavalry, two of Artillery, and eight of Light Infantry and Riflemen, will meet for Inspection and Review, at Newburyport, today. The Salem Brass Band will accompany the Topsfield Light Infantry on the occasion.

Salem Gazette, September 25, 1838.

TOPSFIELD HOTEL.

Agricultural Dinner.

The subscriber will set a table for one hundred persons at half past one o'clock on Thursday next, when a first rate dinner will be provided at the rate of fifty cents a head.

Sept. 25. John Holland.
Topsfield Hotel.

Salem Gazette, September 25, 1838.

Essex County Cattle Show and Fair.

Notwithstanding the severity of the storm the Essex Agricultural Society had a very interesting exhibition at Topsfield yesterday. The ploughing match was well contested;—12 teams were entered. The animals in the pens, though less in number than when the weather has been more favorable, were many of them very handsome. More than 100 articles of Domestic Manufacture were exhibited, many of which were very beautiful, and speak well for the ingenuity and industry of the ladies, who have always contributed largely to the interest of such occasions. The manufactured articles generally were very creditable to the

competitors, and at a proper time the Committee will give the public a good account of them.

Nearly 50 specimens of fruits and vegetables were exhibited, some of which were rare and of great beauty. There were many choice vegetables and some of very great size, particularly squashes and beets. Salem contributed some fine apples and pears, and some other towns were well represented. The season has been favorable for fruits, and had the day been favorable the exhibition would have surpassed all former shows.

The dinner was provided by Mr. Munday of the Village Hotel in his best style, and a large company did ample justice to his generous fare. There were many choice fruits, such as pears, grapes, and melons upon the table.

The exercises in the meeting house were appropriate and interesting, and the Address by Rev. Mr. Withington was all that was expected from his established character for ingenuity and learning. The number present notwithstanding the unfavorableness of the weather and the spirit manifested, gave demonstration that this farmer's holiday has lost none of its interest, and that the Essex Agricultural Society is productive of great and permanent advantage to the community.

Salem Gazette, September 28, 1838.

Unprecedented Shots. Mr. William G. Lake, of Topsfield, shot five wild geese at two shots, on Wednesday. They were in a very excellent condition. Each weighed eight pounds and upwards.

Topsfield, Oct. 4, 1838.

Salem Gazette, October 5, 1838.

Education.

The County Convention of the friends of education will meet at Topsfield this Day, at 11 o'clock. Addresses are expected from Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board of Education, and one or more members of the Board, as well as from other distinguished individuals.

Salem Gazette, October 5, 1838.

A battalion of Light Infantry is expected to assemble at the East Parish meeting house in Boxford, on Thursday, 18th inst., consisting of the following companies:—Washington Guards, Boxford; Low's Volunteers, Ipswich [Linebrook Parish]; and the Topsfield Warren Blues. In the afternoon there will be a sham engagement between a company of Volunteer Indians and

the Light Infantry. The Topsfield Warren Blues will be accompanied by the Salem Brass Band.

Salem Gazette, October 12, 1838.

Education Convention.

A County Convention of the friends of education was to have been held at Topsfield on the fifth inst., and the able and indefatigable Secretary of the Board of Education was present to address the assembly. Owing, however, *entirely*, as we hope, to the inadvertency which occured somewhere, and by means of which scarcely any public notice was given of this meeting, it was very thinly attended; and we have seen no notice of its doings, if there were any.

The preceding paragraph was written for our last paper, but crowded out with many other things.—On Saturday last, the official record of the Convention was handed to us, as follows.

The Convention called by the Secretary of the Board of Education for the purpose of collecting information relative to the condition of the Common Schools in this County, assembled at Topsfield, on Friday, Oct. 5.

The Convention was called to order by the Rev. Mr. McEwen of Topsfield.

Mr. Jacob Batchelder, of Lynn, was called to the chair, and John Batchelder of Lynn was chosen Secretary.

The forenoon was occupied in an animated discussion of the methods usually adopted in teaching orthography and reading, which was ably sustained by several gentlemen from different parts of the County, among whom were Robert Rantoul, jr., Esq., of Gloucester, Rev. Mr. Putnam, of Danvers, Dr. Choate and Oliver Carlton, Esq., of Salem, David Choate, Esq., of Essex, Rev. Mr. Robbins and Mr. Jonathan Tuttle, of Lynn, and Rev. Mr. Thayer, of Beverly.

After a recess of one hour, the Convention reassembled at 2 o'clock, and at 2 1-2 o'clock listened to a lecture from the Hon. Horace Mann.

Following that, certain resolutions were adopted by the Convention.

John Batchelder, Sec'y.

Topsfield, Oct. 5, 1838.

Salem Gazette, October 16, 1838.

Anniversary of the Boxford Washington Guards.

This beautiful company, under command of Capt. Wm. Low, celebrated its fourth anniversary on Thursday last. By invita-

tion from Capt. Low, a battalion of infantry, composed of the Washington Guards, the Warren Blues and Low's Volunteers, formed near the line between Topsfield and Boxford, whence they marched to the residence of Gen. SOLOMON LOW, where they were cordially received by the general, his staff, Col. Perley, Maj. Clark, and other officers of the field. Here they partook of an elegant collation provided by the Gen. and were addressed by him.

About two in the afternoon, the companies and invited guests repaired to Washington Hall, where several hundred sat down to a sumptuous dinner furnished by the guards, and prepared by Mr. William Munday in the very best style. Soon after dinner, the battalion marched to the field, and encountered, in a sham engagement, two large companies dressed in Indian costume, commanded by Capts. Kimball and Peabody.

The day was closed in a manner worthy of its commencement. In the evening the Topsfield Warren Blues and others repaired to the public house kept by Capt. Wm. Munday, where they listened to the Salem Brass Band.

Salem Gazette, October 26, 1838.

TEACHERS' MEETING.

The ninth annual meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association will be held at Topsfield on *Friday and Saturday*, Nov. 30th and Dec. 1st, at which time the following Lectures may be expected—viz:

On Friday, at 11 o'clock, from the Rev. Samuel M. Worcester of Salem—on the *English Language*. At half past 2, P. M., from Moses T. Parish of Salem—on *Our Profession*. At half past 3, from the Rev. N. Munroe of Bradford—on *Teaching the Courtesies of Life*. On Saturday, at 9 o'clock, from Jacob Batchelder of Lynn—on *The best method of Teaching Reading*. At 11 o'clock from Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq., of Bradford—on *The Geology of Essex County*.

Discussions will follow each lecture in due course. Important Reports may be expected at this meeting, from committees appointed to examine the various published systems of English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, and on Reading Books.

*** School committees, instructors, and friends to the cause of education, are respectfully invited to be present and contribute to the interest of the occasion.

GEORGE TITCOMB,
Corresponding Secretary.

Newburyport, Nov. 23.

Salem Gazette, November 23, 1838.

DIED. In Topsfield, on the 5th inst., Lucy Cleaveland, eldest daughter of the late Nehemiah Cleaveland, aged 38. During a protracted sickness of more than six years continuance, and of a most distressing and hopeless character, Miss Cleaveland manifested, in a remarkable degree, the patience and resignation of the Christian.

Salem Gazette, December 14, 1838.

The towns of Hamilton, Topsfield, Wenham, and Middleton, have petitioned the legislature to restore the fish way in Ipswich river, according to the act of 1788. It seems by subsequent acts that the Cotton Manufacturing Company, on said river, have raised their dam so high that alewives and shad cannot go over it, and have not been over it since 1827.

Salem Gazette, March 19, 1839.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The first Summer term of this Institution will commence on Wednesday, April 10, and continue twelve weeks, under the superintendence of Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq., late Preceptor of Bradford Academy.

The young ladies and gentlemen, who may be placed under his care, will receive instruction in all the various branches of an English and Classical Education.

He will be provided with such Assistants as the number of Students may require.

Tuition for English studies, $5.00 per term.—For Classical studies, $6.00 per term.

Board in good families can be obtained at $2.00 per week.

Students can be furnished with Books and Stationery at the Institution.

Communications respecting the Academy may be addressed to Rev. Mr. McEwen, C. H. Holmes, Esq., and Mr. Richard Phillips, jr.

Topsfield, March 19, 1839.

Salem Gazette, March 22, 1839.

Essex County Fisheries.

In the Senate, yesterday (Monday), the Committee on the Fisheries reported on the petition of Benjamin Woodbury, in behalf of the towns of Hamilton and Topsfield, Wenham and Middleton, in aid of the petition, proposing to refer it to the next Legislature.

The Report stated, that by the Act of 1781, these towns had and enjoyed a Right to take fish in Ipswich River, which was valuable to them; but by the subsequent Acts of 1826 and 1829 these rights mere made valueless, no Shad or Alewives having passed up the River above Farley's Dam since 1826. The Ipswich Manufacturing Company remonstrated against the Petition, but the Committee were satisfied that there ought to be a good and sufficient passageway for the fish to pass up freely, and the Remonstrants admitted all this.

Upon the question of accepting the Report, Mr. King of Essex moved to recommit with instructions to report a Bill to provide a sufficient passageway.

This proposition was discussed by Messrs. *King*, *Spofford*, and *Whitmarsh*, in favor of it, and Mr. *Meigs* against it; the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. *Marston*, also making a statement of what the Company were willing to do.

But the motion of Mr. *King* to recommit prevailed without a division, and a Bill is to be reported tomorrow.

Salem Gazette, April 2, 1839.

Essex County Teachers' Association.

The semi-annual meeting of the E. C. T. A. will be held at Topsfield on Friday and Saturday, the 24th and 25th inst., in the Hall of the Academy.

The following lectures may be expected, viz: Friday, A. M., 10 1-2 o'clock, by Rev. Mr. True, of Lynn, on the history and utility of Logic. P. M., 1 1-2 o'clock, by Dr. Durkee of Lynn, on Physical education. 3 o'clock, by the President of the Association, on the Geology of Essex County. Saturday, 9 1-2 A. M., by J. W. Browne, Esq., of Lynn, on the Cultivation of the taste and imagination. 11 o'clock, by Mr. Towndrow of Salem, on Penmanship. Discussions will follow each lecture.

Teachers, members of School Committees, and all friends of Education, are invited to attend.

M. P. Parish, Cor. Sec'y.

Salem, May 17, 1839.

Salem Gazette, May 17, 1839.

Topsfield Academy.—The second Summer term of this institution will commence on Wednesday, July 24, and continue twelve weeks under the care of Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq. Young Ladies and Gentlemen will be instructed in all the various branches of an English and classical education, including pure and mixed Mathematics. Particular attention will be de-

voted to those students who are preparing to be Teachers, and for the compting room. A short course of familiar lectures on Chemistry, Botany, stc., will be given, for which there will be no extra charge to the students. Mr. Greenleaf will be assisted by competent teachers. Tuition, $5 per term. Board in good families may be obtained at $2 per week. There will be a short vacation of two days and a half, at the time of the meeting of the American Institute. For further information, reference may be had to Rev. James T. McEwen, Charles H. Holmes, Esq., or Joseph C. Batchelder, M. D.

RICHARD PHILLIPS, Secretary.

Topsfield, July 5, 1839

Salem Gazette, July 12, 1839.

TO THE COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

THE undersigned respectfully represent, that the County road leading from Salem through Topsfield to Georgetown, has ever been a subject of much complaint, on account of the difficulty of passing the river hill, so called, in Topsfield. This hill, on account of its steepness and great height, presents a serious obstacle in travelling this road, and it being very broad on the top, it is impossible to reduce it or improve it much where the road now is; and as this is one of the greatest travelled roads in the County, the public is much interested in having an improvement, by which the peculiar difficulty of passing this hill may be avoided. In the opinion of the undersigned such an improvement may be had, by making a new piece of road through a valley that runs through said hill some distance to the eastward of the present road.

It has been found by actual survey and computation, that the highest point of elevation over which a road would have to pass through this valley would be fifty feet lower than the hill where the road now passes it; and the rise is so gradual that the steepest place need not be more than half a degree more than half as steep as the Turnpike hill and probably not half as steep as the hill on the County road; and the course is so much more direct that a saving of about forty rods will be made in the distance of travel.

We are therefore of the opinion that the public necessity and convenience requires that a road should be located through this valley to be connected at each end with the present road:—

We therefore respectfully petition this court to adopt meas-

ures to cause a new piece of road to be located and made, commencing by the Newburyport Turnpike opposite to where the road recently made through land of Dr. Treadwell, meets the same ; thence running about twenty-five degrees east of south to a point a little east of John Dwinnel's barn, thence south about twelve degrees west to the new piece of road north of Elias Putnam's house ; or in such other course as may be found most judicious—and as in duty bound will ever pray.

JOHN KIMBALL and others.

The County Commissioners appointed a hearing at the Topsfield Hotel for Sept. 4th, at 9 A. M.

Salem Gazette, July 23, 1839.

COPPER MINE.

There has been opened, within a few weeks, a Copper Mine in the neighboring town of Topsfield, in this county. It is in the southwest side of the town, near the Danvers and Middleton lines. It promises thus far, we understand, to yield a good quantity and quality of this metal.

This mine is not a recent discovery, but the revival of an old one. The history of it is substantially thus : Some seventy years back, there was living in the town of Topsfield, or its near vicinity, an Englishman by the name of *Bunting.* He was of a scientific turn,—solitary and meditative in his habits, and spent much of his time in wandering about in the then extensive woods of that region. In one of his rambles, in passing over the location of the mine in question, he conceived that he saw evidence of the presence of copper ore. This led him to farther investigation. An excavation was made, and some ore obtained, which upon the process of smelting was found to yield copper. He made known his discovery to the owner of the land, and entered into an agreement with him for the working of the mine upon the condition that Bunting should do it at his own cost, and give the proprietor of the field one sixteenth part of the copper obtained. Accordingly a pit was opened to a considerable depth, which not yielding very abundantly, was abandoned, and a second tried, which produced more freely. A large quantity of the ore was thus dug—enough to lade one vessel of considerable size, and shipped for England, from this very port, —we believe,—there to be smelted. Bunting arrived in England with his ore,—but was taken sick, and died very shortly after his arrival. What was done with the ore, or how it remunerated the expense of so long transportation, does not appear. The

project seems to have died there with the projector. Bunting not returning to this country, and no tidings being heard of him, it was very naturally supposed to have resulted in a total failure, Accordingly, the mine was neglected, bushes sprang up on the spot, and it was soon forgotten. It has always gone by the name of the "Mine Lot,"—and has frequently changed owners.

The history of the affair was in the process of years forgotten, or lay dormant in the memory of a few individuals. There was a sort of misty tradition handed down concerning the "Mine Lot," which was, that a strange foreigner once undertook to dig gold or money there; and that he suddenly disappeared, and, as supposed, was swallowed up in the earth. This was believed by a few timid and superstitious of a later generation; and some had a dread of going through the "Mine Lot" by night, as it had been reported that an unearthly, grim-looking figure had been seen walking guard there armed with a huge branch of an old oak tree which had been scattered by lightning in the vicinity. Few, however, believed this story.

Within a very few years past, a descendant of Bunting, in England, inherited some property of his,—and among other things, some of his papers came into his nands. Among them he discovered the very agreement relating to the working of the Copper Mine,—describing it as situated in "the Colony of Massachusetts, North America, etc." The young man not knowing but that an immense fortune was here buried in the earth for him, undertook with his papers, a voyage to the U. States. He visited the Office of the Registry of Deeds in this city, to ascertain by ancient records the location and identity of the mine which was the object of his search. Upon inquiry concerning the matter being made in Topsfield a recollection of the old affair and person was awakened in the memory of an aged individual there. Suffice it to say, that traces of the two pits were discovered, almost obliterated by time. Whether the agreement was not still binding, or whether the young Englishman did not consider the object worth farther pursuit,—or whether he sold his right and title, we do not know. He shortly after left the country. Some enterprising individuals of late have purchased the "lot," and the digging of the ore is now going on with flattering prospects.—*Observer.*

Salem Gazette, August 9, 1839.

The Whigs of Topsfield held a meeting last Saturday evening, and chose Col. Nath'l Perley and William E. Kimball, Esq. as delegates to attend the Convention at Worcester on the 11th inst.

Salem Gazette, September 10, 1839.

DIED. In Topsfield, very suddenly, Mr. Bartholomew Conant, aged 66. He always sustained the character of an honest and upright man; was a good citizen, and much respected by all with whom he was acquainted. Although called suddenly to bid farewell to earthly scenes, yet, we trust, he was ready to depart. For several years he has been a professed Christian, and an ornament to the church of which he was a member. Kindness and meekness were in all his doings.

Salem Gazette, September 24, 1839.

Essex ss. To the Honorable Court of County Commissioners, begun and holden at Newburyport within and for said county on the second Tuesday in October, A. D. 1839.

The undersigned inhabitants of said County, respectfully represent that the high-way leading from Topsfield to Danvers and Salem, over Wenham causey, so called, is in parts thereof hilly, and in parts thereof greatly circuitous; and that the public convenience and necessity require that a more easy, level and direct communication should be opened between said towns to Topsfield, Danvers and Salem, for the accommodation of the public travel in that direction.

Wherefore they pray that after due proceedings had in the premises, that said highway beginning at the point where it intersects the road leading by the dwelling house of Benj. C. and David Perkins in Topsfield, and terminating at a point in the highway in Wenham leading by the dwelling house of Warren Peabody, where the road recently laid out and established on the petition of John Porter and others meets said last named highway, may be made more level in the hilly parts and more direct in the circuitous parts thereof, by such alterations, reductions, repairs and new locations between the termini aforesaid, as in the judgment of your Honor the public good requires, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Jacob P. Towne and others.

The County Commissioners appointed a hearing at the Topsfield Hotel for Dec. 3rd, 1839, at 10 A. M.

Salem Gazette, October, 22, 1839.

Notice.

The annual meeting of the *Essex Teacher's Association* will be held at Topsfield Academy on Friday and Saturday, the 29th and 30th inst.

The following lectures may be expected, viz:

On Friday forenoon, at half past 10 o'clock, by Rev. Mr. Truce of Lynn, upon the Nature and Utility of Logic.

At half past 10 o'clock P. M. by Mr. Allen of Haverhill Academy, upon English Grammar and Composition.

At 3 o'clock by Mr. Weed, of Ipswich, upon Agriculture as a part of Common School Education.

On Saturday, A. M. at 9 o'clock, a lecture by R. Rantoul, Jr. various subjects pertaining and the subject of education will be brought up for discussion by the Association.

M. P. Parish, Cor. Sec'y.

Salem, Nov. 26th, 1839.

Salem Gazette, November 26, 1839.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

Mr. Editor,—By the last quarterly catalogue of this Institution, it appears that the whole number of students the last term is eighty one. The winter term has lately commenced under the care of Asa Farwell, Esq., a gentleman of high literary attainments, and an able and experienced Instructor; and well qualified to teach in *all* the various branches of an English and Classical education. Board in good families can be had for $2 per week, washing included. The present term will continue 18 weeks. Tuition at the rate of $5 for 12 weeks; an extra price is required of those scholars who attend to Civil Engineering, and the French and German languages. The trustees have made arrangements to have a course of lectures this term on Astronomy, Chemistry, Physiology, etc. illustrated by diagrams, preparations and models. These are to be given without additional expense to all the members of the institution. It is believed these lectures will be an important improvement in illustrating the various subjects to which the minds of the students may be directed. The location of this institution is uncommonly pleasant—both in respect to its beautiful scenery and good influence. The opening of the Winter term of this Academy, under the existing favorable circumstances, offers a rare opportunity to those who wish to place their sons and daughters in a situation favorable to the cultivation of good habits, in respect to economy, industry and thorough scholarship.

T. F. R.

Salem Gazette, December 20, 1839

☞The Rev. JOHN PIERPONT, of Boston, will deliver a Lecture before the Topsfield Atheneum Association, in Rev. Mr. McEwen's Meeting House, on TUESDAY EVENING, Jan. 21, at half past 6 o'clock.—Subject—His travels in Ephesus. Admittance free:

Tops. A. Association.

Salem Gazette, January 17, 1840.

MR. EDITOR.—Will you be so obliging as to give room to a few words concerning the concert of the SALEM BRASS BAND, at Topsfield, on Wednesday, the 5th inst. I speak of the spirit of liberality manifested towards this association, by the young men in the vicinity of Topsfield. Sleigh load after sleigh load drove up, put their equipages in the shed and then came up to the outside of the meeting house, to hear and see. Most of the lower windows being filled with the faces of liberal minded souls looking in. There were about one hundred inside of the house, the entry was crowded, and all of three hundred outside supposed to be from some Navy Yard about there. The price of tickets was 25 cents; one liberal minded worthy suggested the propriety of putting them at 12 1-2 cts. *Children, half price,* 6 1-4 ct! "No you don't".

"The outside passengers" must be greatly obliged to the proprietors of the House for the use of the shed to put up in, while they were attending the Concert on the outside of the House. A communication in the Observer of Saturday the 8th says "we hope and trust the thinness of the house will be excused by the Band, when they consider the shortness of the notice and the coldness of the weather." I have no doubt the Band will excuse it, also the *thinness* of those "outside passengers" who it is to be hoped will excuse the coldness of the weather.

M. H.

Salem, Feb. 14, 1840.

Salem Gazette, February 14, 1840.

"TOPSFIELD GOOD YET! The democrats carried their whole ticket for town officers in Topsfield."

Salem Advertiser, of Wednesday.

This is equally untrue with the Wenham and Danvers stores. That is, — there is not a word of truth in it. The Whigs in Topsfield are stronger than they ever were before. Young men who have never before taken part in polictics are daily coming out in favor of Harrison, Reform and Free Labor; and their

example is followed by men who have heretofore avoided committing themselves in favor of any party; and better still, by some, as we are informed, who always opposed Webster and Clay, but who are strong for Harrison.

The Whig Moderator, Mr. Conant, was elected by more than fifty majority. With regard to the town officers, the Whigs were, as usual, liberal, and reelected Mr. Towne for Clerk, who is a very suitable and respectable man for the office, having no other failing than suffering himself to be accounted a Van Buren man. Four out of the five Selectmen are Whigs, all the Assessors are Whigs, and most of the other officers are Whigs.

The Advertiser is very unfortunate in relying upon the false information given to it by its friends.

Salem Gazette, March 13, 1840.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The Spring Term of this Institution will commence, Wednesday, April 13th, and continue to the close of the Academic year in August.

The school will be under the immediate care of the present principal, Mr. Asa Farwell, A. B. whose qualifications and success as an instructor in the various branches of an English and Classical Education, are regarded by the friends of the Institution as a sure pledge of its future prosperity.

The location of this academy is uncommonly favorable; being in a pleasant and quiet village in the centre of Essex County, it affords peculiar advantages to those desirous of pursuing their studies, removed from noise and interruption; and is in respect to scenery, health and freedom from bad influences, one of the most eligible in New England.

The course of instruction is designed to be thorough; and no pains will be spared in rendering efficient aid to all connected with the school, in the various branches to which they attend. The Principal will be assisted by competent instructors, and will devote particular attention to those Young Ladies and Gentlemen who are preparing to become teachers. Among other advantages, the pupils of the institution have the privilege of attending the Lectures delivered before the Athenaeum Association, by gentlemen from different towns and cities in the vicinity.

It is particularly desirable that scholars should be present at the commencement of the term. Tuition for the English branches, $5 per quarter. Tuition for the Language, $6. Board

including washing and lights may be obtained in good families, near the Academy, for $2 per week.

References—Rev. Mr. Coggin, Boxford—Rev. Mr. Mansfield, Wenham—Rev. Mr. Braman and Rev. Mr. Burden, Georgetown—Wm. H. Foster, Esq. and Asahel Hunginton, Esq., Salem—Rev. M. P. Braman, Danvers—Ferdinand Andrews, Esq. and Gilbert Brownell, Esq. Boston.

I. C. Batchelder, Secretary.

Topsfield, March 20.

Salem Gazette, April 3, 1840.

The Tenth semi-annual meeting of the Essex County Association, will be held at the Academy in Topsfield, on Friday and Saturday, the 22d and 23d inst.

The following gentlemen are expected to lecture, viz.

On Friday at 10 o'clock, A. M., Mr. C. H. Allen of Haverhill Academy, upon English Grammer and Composition.

At half past 1 o'clock P. M. Mr. T. D. P. Stone, of the Female Seminary, Andover, on Reading.

At 3 o'clock P. M., Rev. L. Coleman, of the Andover Teacher's Seminary.

On Saturday, at 9 o'clock, a lecture by Hon. J. Spofford of Bradford.

At half past 10 o'clock A. M. Rev. A. Tram, of Haverhill, will lecture.

Various subjects of interest to those engaged in the education of youth, will be discussed by members of the Association.

Charles Northend, Sec'y.

Danvers, May 19.

Salem Gazette, May 19, 1840.

INDEPENDENCE.

The Whig celebration, in this city, was, in every respect, all that could be desired. [A three column account follows]. The Manchester Light Infantry, the Topsfield Warren Blues, and the Boxford Washington Guards, are all beautiful companies and added greatly to the splendor of the escort. * * * To show the spirit by which the escort were animated we need only mention that the two companies from Boxford and Topsfield were already formed on Danvers neck by *five* o'clock in the morning.

Salem Gazette, July 7, 1840.

The Topsfield Warren Blues tender their thanks to the Salem Mechanic Light Infantry, and to the Whig citizens generally, for their kind and hospitable attentions, on the fourth of July.

Salem Gazette, July 10, 1840.

MARRIAGES.

In Topsfield, Mr. Israel Wildes to Miss Lydia Ann Averill. Mr. Moses Wildes to Miss Sarah Ann Adams. Mr. Asa Bradstreet to Miss Nancy Fullerton. Col. Nathaniel Perley to Miss Elizabeth Waitt. Mr. William R. Adams to Miss Rebecca J. Hart. Mr. Francis Gould to Miss Catharine B. Gould. Mr. Frederic Stiles to Miss Sophia Perkins—all of Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, July 10, 1840.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The annual Catalogue of this Institution has just been issued. The whole number of young gentlemen and ladies, was 104. During the fall term Benjamin Greenleaf, Esq. was the principal; during the winter and summer terms it has been under the superintendance of Asa Farwell, Esq., a gentleman of high literary attainments, and well qualified to teach in all the various branches of an English and classical education. The Academy building is situated on an eminence in a beautiful village distinguished for the salubrity of its climate, the neatness of its dwellings, the beauty of its hills and valleys, and the purity of its atmosphere. The building is a large and airy edifice, two stories high, and well adapted to the purpose for which it was erected. The lower story contains the usual study room, and an apartment for the library and philosophical apparatus; the upper story has a large hall and several recitation rooms. The beautiful location of the Academy, the mode of instruction which is designed to be such as to secure a thorough acquaintance with branches pursued, afford peculiar advantages to those who are desirous of pursuing their studies removed from noise and interruption; and to those parents who wish to place their children where they will avoid temptations to which many schools are exposed. The annual examination of this institution occured on Tuesday the 11th. inst. We were especially pleased with the recitations of a class of young girls in Latin and Mathematics; the girls in this class were only 8 years of age. The improvement realized by this class showed that the teacher had spared no effort in endeavoring to secure to them

such both intellectual and moral, as that tender age required. We were also well pleased with the recitations of the other students in Latin and Greek, in Political Economy, and in the higher branches of Mathematics. The compositions of the young ladies for maturity of thoughts beauty of imagination, and devotional feeling, exceeded our anticipations. The performances of the young gentlemen were highly creditable to themselves, and were considered as promises of usefulness by their friends. The valedictory address by Mr. Kilham of Boxford, was an able effort, and was listened to by all present with heartfelt delight. The whole exercises were interspersed with instrumental and vocal music ably performed under the direction of Mr. Allison H. Palmer, who is connected with the school, and by whom instruction in vocal and instrumental music is given. The pupils board in private families near the Academy at a moderate price, where every attention is paid to their health and happiness. The next term will commence on the first Wednesday of September and continue 11 weeks.

The public exercises were closed by an appropriate prayer by Rev. Mr. Mansfield of Wenham.

VERITAS.

August 13, 1840.

Salem Gazette, August 21, 1840.

MILITARY.

A meeting of the Field Officers of the Fourth Brigade, (Essex County) is to be held at Topsfield, on the 4th of September next, for the choice of a Brigadier General, under the new organization of the volunteer Militia.

Salem Gazette, August 28, 1840.

MILITARY.

On Friday last, Col. Nathaniel Perley, of Topsfield, of the 7th regiment, was elected Brigadier General of the 4th Brigade 2d division Volunteer Militia comprising Essex County.

Salem Gazette, September 8, 1840.

[At the great Whig gathering at Bunker Hill on Sept. 10th the Topsfield delegation carried a banner described as follows :] Device.—Sub-Treasury, with head, legs, and tail of a cow; with Amos' children (office holders) frightened from the teats by the sound of Whig cannon. In the distance the Whig flag of victory is seen waving amidst clouds of smoke from the Artillery.

Motto.— "Amos' children (office holders) frightened from their pap." On the reverse, "Retrenchment and Punishment." "No duty and full pay for the Commodore.—100 lashes for the Sailor."

Salem Gazette, September 11, 1840.

MILITARY.

The 7th Regiment of Light Infantry, commanded by Col. Horace S. Bradley, together with the other troops in the north part of the Fourth Brigade, will parade at Topsfield, on the 8th of October, and be reviewed by Brig. Gen. Perley.

The 4th Brigade staff is organized by the appointment of Nathaniel Conant, of Topsfield, as Brigade Major and Inspector; George T. Clark, of Andover, Brigade Quarter Master, Daniel Richards of Danvers, Aid de Camp.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 25, 1840.

Essex County Teachers' Association.

The eleventh Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at the Academy building in Topsfield, on Friday and Saturday, the 16th and 17th days of October. Lectures on subjects intimately connected with school instruction will be delivered by the Rev. Mr. *Train*, of Haverhill,—by the Hon. *David Choate*, of Essex,—by Mr. *Wells*, of the Teachers' Seminary in Andover, —by the Rev. *Alonzo Gray*, of Andover,—and by *Benjamin Greenleaf*, Esq. Principal of Bradford Academy. At a recent meeting of the officers of the above Association, the following resolve was passed:

Resolved, That the School Committees of the several towns in the County be respectfully requested to urge upon the teachers of their Schools the importance of attending the meetings of the Association and allow them the requisite time for doing the same.

Salem Gazette, October 13, 1840.

TOPSFIELD.

There will be a Political Address delivered before the Whigs of Topsfield, on THURSDAY EVENING by J. C. Perkins Esq. of Salem.

Salem Gazette, October 27, 1840.

TOPSFIELD.

A political Address will be delivered on THURSDAY EVENING next, by Jonathan C. Perkins, Esq., of Salem, at Rev.

Mr. McEwen's Meeting house, at 6 1-2 o'clock. Citizens generally are invited to attend.

Salem Gazette, November 3, 1840.

In the Nov. 13, 1840, issue of the Salem Gazette, is printed a list of the officers of the Essex County Teacher's Association, among whom were Joseph C. Batchelder, Topsfield, *Librarian and Cabinet Keeper*, and Asa Farwell, Topsfield, *Councillor.*

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY. The winter term in this institution, will commence on the first Wednesday of December. Instruction will be given as heretofore, to pupils of both sexes in the different branches of study comprized in a complete English and Classical education.

References to Gen. Nathaniel Perley, William Munday, Esq., and Rev. Jas. McEwen.

Topsfield, Nov. 13.

Salem Gazette, November 20, 1840.

[In the return of votes for President, in the County of Essex, 108 were cast for the abolition candidate of which 19 were in Topsfield.]

Salem Gazette, November 20, 1840.

TOPSFIELD, NOV. 21, 1840.

Mr. Editor—Dear Sir—I saw it stated in your paper of yesterday, that nineteen votes were cast in this town for the Abolition Ticket. This is a mistake, and I hope you will correct it, that the impression may not go abroad that we have nineteen voters in this town who are so infatuated as to go hand in hand with that political party. There was but one *amalgamation* ticket cast in this town. A. B.

Salem Gazette, November 26, 1840.

HUMANITY.

A *gentleman* with a pung and two horses, from Topsfield, was driving down Essex St. last Saturday afternoon, and ran on a lady, rising eighty years of age and quite deaf, knocked her down, broke her collarbone, and otherwise injured her. People passing immediately ran to her rescue and drew her from under the horses' feet. The said gentleman did not get out of his sleigh, but merely as a matter of favor stopped his horses long enough for the old lady to be drawn from under them. Should

this meet the eye of this pink of humanity, he is informed that unless he should in the course of this week call upon the injured person, who is very poor, and make her condition as comfortable as circumstances will permit, he may expect to be called on in a more formal way. Should the person who committed this outrage say in excuse that he does not know where the injured person lives, all he has to do is to inquire in the neighborhood where the act was committed, and in case his memory does not serve him to know the place, he can call on the printer, who will give him the necessary information, also the name of the writer of this piece, if required. M.

Salem Gazette, December 22, 1840.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY. This School is now open for the reception of young Ladies and Gentlemen, W. F. Kent, Principal. Instruction will be given in all the branches of an English and Classical Education.

References--Gen. N. Perley, Rev. Messrs. McEwen, and Griffin, Topsfield; Rev. Mr. Coggin, of Boxford; Rev. Mr. Mansfield, Wenham; Rev. Mr. Braman, Georgetown; Col. Jesse Putnam and J. W. Proctor, Esq., Danvers; A. Huntington, Esq. and Col. H. Whipple, Salem; S. B. Ives and G. Brownell, Esq. of Boston.

Dec. 15, 1840.

Salem Gazette, December 25, 1840.

Richard Phillips, Jr., of Topsfield, has been appointed by the Governor and Council, one of the Coroners for the county of Essex.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 19, 1841.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.

Haverhill and Concord Stage

[Woodcut of stage coach]

The Haverhill and Concord Stage, on and after this day, will leave Salem, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 o'clock A. M., or soon after the arrival of the cars from Boston and Marblehead.

This stage intersects with the line for Derry and Manchester, N. H. at Haverhill.

Seats taken in Salem at the Essex House.

J. PINKHAM.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 8, 1841.

ESSEX COUNTY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

☞The Eleventh Semi-annual Meeting of the "Essex County Teachers' Association," will be held at Topsfield Academy, on Friday, the 30th inst. and the day following.

On Friday, lectures may be expected from Rev. C. C. SEWALL of Danvers; Rev. E. A. LAWRENCE of Haverhill; Mr. T. D. P. STONE of Andover Female Seminary, and Rev. G. B. Perry of Bradford.

On Saturday, from Rev. A. FITZ of Ipswich, and THOMAS B. WEST, Esq. of Beverly Academy.

The first Lecture will be at 10 o'clock, Friday, A. M.

Teachers and the friends of Education generally, are respectfully invited to attend.

CHARLES NORTHEND, Sec.

Danvers, April 27, 1841.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 27, 1841.

☞WILLIAM E. KIMBALL, Esq. has been appointed postmaster of Topsfield, in place of EDWARD HOOD, Esq.

Salem Gazette, May 4, 1841.

[Sylvester Cummings, guardian of Samuel Hood, jr. (a person non compos mentis) of Topsfield, married, petitioned the Probate Court for authority to sell certain real estate located in Topsfield and Middleton.]

Salem Gazette, May 4, 1841.

FOR THE SALEM GAZETTE.

At a meeting of the Essex County Teachers' Association, held in Topsfield last week, immediately after the first lecture, by Mr. Stone, of Andover, the following vote was passed, moved by Mr. Putnam of Salem, and seconded by Mr. Stone, of Andover.

Voted, "That the association immediately adjourn to a private room in the Hotel, for the purpose of free discussion among ourselves, and that all those who consider themselves members, and *ladies* that are teachers, be invited to be present."

The policy of such a vote may justly be questioned. In the public notice of the meeting of the association,

"Teachers and the friends of Education *generally* are respectfully invited to attend."

Similar invitations have been uniformly given in previous notices of meetings, and the people of Topsfield and neighborhood have improved the opportunity of listening to the lectures and discussions which have been had.

I, for one, have been entertained and instructed, and attended this time under this general invitation, and it was matter of regret to be thus unexpectedly deprived of the privilege of hearing the discussions, which are thought by many to be as interesting as the lectures. They lay open and explain the subject of the lecture more fully, and elicit additional remarks from the lecturer.

The audience have generally heretofore been invited to take a part in these discussions, and I have now and then myself thrown in a remark. I have always had great respect for the association, have aided and assisted, in various ways, in promoting the objects of the association. I think these meetings of teachers very profitable to themselves and the public, and should much regret that anything should be done, which would go to lessen their usefulness or popularity.

Again, the idea of adjourning to a private room, and inviting female teachers, might not suit the tastes of all classes, and in such a hasty vote I presume the association has not maturely considered the bearing of such a movement. I presume they did not have many ladies attend their discussions in private apartments.

The only reason I heard given, was that they did not want all their "little peccadillos made public." But it is no matter how many faults are made known, if they are willing to correct them; besides, their perfections, which we are willing to much more abound, would be as much kept from the public as their imperfections.

Considering myself a friend of education, and to the association, I have been induced to make these remarks for the consideration of all concerned.

Topsfield, May 6, 1841.

Salem Gazette, May 14, 1841.

NOTICE.

MR. JOHNSON, of Boston, a reformed inebriate, will lecture on Temperance, in the Methodist meeting house, in Topsfield, TOMORROW EVENING, at 7 1-2 o'clock. He will also lecture in the Old Meeting House, on Sabbath evening. He will relate the experiences of 18 years of extreme drunkenness, and the sufferings of himself and his family, during that period.

Topsfield, May 14.

Salem Gazette, May 14, 1841.

TOPSFIELD HOTEL.

FOR SALE OR TO BE LET. For sale or to be let that spacious House, situated on the Newburyport Turnpike, known as the Topsfield Hotel. It is situated on the main road from Boston, 21 miles; from Salem 9 miles; from Haverhill, 12 1-2, and from Newburyport 12 miles.

The House is elevated, and is one of the pleasantest situations for a summer residence that can be found, being very airy. The House is three stories high, has a fine hall, and was built expressly for a Public House. Adjoining is a large Stable, sufficient to accomodate 50 or 60 horses over night—together with large Wood Sheds and other out buildings. There are about three acres of first rate Land, on which is about 100 grafted Fruit Trees of selected fruit. One of the finest wells of water, together with an aqueduct that never fails of water.

Any person desirous of a Public House, will find the above one of the finest in the country.

For further information apply to SOLOMON WILDES or MOSES WILDES, No. 11 Elm street, Boston.

N. B. The above Hotel is well calculated for Boarders, and in the summer months has been filled with the same. Possession will be given immediately, as the House is now vacated.

Topsfield, June 1, 1841.

Salem Gazette, June 1, 1841.

TOPSFIELD.

There is to be a celebration on Monday in Topsfield, upon temperance principles. A procession will be formed, and an address delivered by MR. KENT, Preceptor of the Academy, after which the company will partake of a dinner.

Salem Gazette, July 2, 1841.

Wednesday afternoon. It had been preceded by intense heat on that day and Tuesday. About 2 o'clock, there were indications of the gradual approach of a thunder shower; but the tempest, which burst upon us, soon after three o'clock, proceeded from a lower stratum of clouds, which travelled with a degree of swiftness rarely witnessed. Volumes of dust, leaves, branches, and every other light article exposed to its power, instantly filled the air. Many large trees were broken off, others were torn up by the roots, and numerous barns, and other buildings presenting a large surface and of light frames, were overthrown. The first blast was almost instantly followed by torrents of rain, with heavy thunder.

In Topsfield there was a perfect tornado, a sort of young typhoon. In the south part of the town several barns were blown down. One, belonging to a Mr. Gifford, was demolished while he and his two sons were in it. Mr. G. was severely hurt, and one of the sons was injured by a blow upon his head from a falling timber. Some of the hail stones which fell in Topsfield in the afternoon measured, we are informed, six and a half inches in circumference. Much of the glass in the west and southwest parts of the houses upon and near the Hill was broken. In the Valley the damage to the glass was slight, as the wind has subsided in that quarter before the hail fell. They had another thunder shower in the evening, when hail stones fell, some of which measured four and a half inches in circumference.

A large number of fruit trees were blown down, and many fields of corn and potatoes were seriously injured by the hail in the several places over which the storm passed. On the road from Topsfield to Danvers Plains, trees were prostrated in great numbers. A sound oak, a foot in diameter, was literally twisted off a short distance from the ground, and the bark peeled almost entirely from the trunk.

Salem Gazette, July 2, 1841.

Independence in Topsfield. The anniversary of independence was celebrated at Topsfield in a very agreeable manner. A procession of gentlemen was formed near the Academy, and moved under the direction of Joel Lake, Esq., chief marshal, to the meetinghouse, where they were joined by the ladies and children, and thence proceeded to a grove near the village. An eloquent oration was delivered by William F. Kent, Esq., and after the oration the company partook of an excellent repast, prepared by the ladies of Topsfield. Maj. Nathaniel Conant was president of the day, assisted, at the table, by C. A. Holmes, and John Wright, Esqs. In the afternoon, the children of the *Cold Water Army* were addressed by Rev. J. Humphrey Avery, of Danvers.

Salem Gazette, July 13, 1841.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The fall term of this institution will commence WEDNESDAY, Aug. 18th. The School will be under the care of the former Principal, Mr. Asa Farwell, A. B., in whose qualifications and success as an instructor of youth, the friends of the Institution have the fullest confidence.

Particular attention will be devoted to those who are preparing to become Teachers; and no efforts will be spared on the part of the Principal in endeavoring to give perfect satisfaction to all who may patronize the School.

Tuition in the English Branches, $5, per quarter,
" " Languages, $6, do.

Board in respectable families near the Academy may be had on reasonable terms.

B. P. ADAMS,
Secretary.

Topsfield, July 30.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 3, 1841.

MILITARY.

A grand military exhibition is expected in this city to-day, when 20 companies, being all the independent corps in the county, excepting the Cadets, will be assembled on the common, under command of Brig. Gen. Sutton.

The Topsfield, Boxford and Bradford companies marched into town yesterday afternoon, and pitched their tents on the common. They were accompanied by the Methuen and Haverhill Bands.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 17, 1841.

MILITARY.

The Parade of Gen. Sutton's Brigade took place on Friday last, on Salem Common.

* * * *

The Topsfield, Boxford and Bradford companies remained in their encampments during Friday night, and left for home on Saturday. The Topsfield and Boxford companies visited the Museum on Saturday morning. The Boxford Guards paraded in a very neat and comfortable undress uniform, on Friday evening, and attracted much notice by their unique appearance.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 21, 1841.

At a meeting of the Topsfield Warren Blues held at their Armory, Sept. 18th, the following votes were passed:—

Voted, That the thanks of this corps be tendered to the Salem Light Infantry for the generous invitation extended to us of visiting the East India Marine Museum.

Voted, That the thanks of this Company be presented to the Salem Mechanic Light Infantry, for their generosity in proffering to us the use of their Armory, on the evening of the 17th inst., and also for refreshments on the same occasion.

A. S. PEABODY,
Clerk.

Topsfield, Sept. 21, 1841.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 21, 1841.

A CARD.

ARMORY OF THE BOXFORD WASHINGTON GUARDS, Saturday Evening, Sept. 18.

Voted, That the thanks of the Company be presented to the Officers of the Topsfield Warren Blues for refreshments received of them on our late canpaign, at the Village Hotel, in Topsfield, on Thursday and Saturday, Sept. 16th and 18th.

JAMES NEASON,
Clerk of the B. W. G.

Boxford, Sept. 21, 1841.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 21, 1841.

TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

The twelfth annual meeting of the Essex County Teachers association will be held at the Academy in Topsfield on Friday and Saturday 15th and 16th inst.

The exercises will commence on Friday, at 10 o'clock A. M., with a lecture by Rev. G. B. Perry of Bradford.

On Saturday, A. M., Cornelius Walker, Esq., and Hon. Horace Mann, of Boston, will lecture before the Association.

Arrangements have been made by which the annual meeting of the "Common School Convention" for Essex County will be held at the same place on Friday. This meeting will be organized at 11 1-2 o'clock, A. M., under the direction of the Secretary of the Board of Education, who will deliver an address at 2 o'clock P. M. The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be occupied by the discussion of subjects of interest to the friends of popular education.

CHARLES NORTHEND, Sec'y of Co. Asso.

Salem, Oct. 5, 1841.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 5, 1841.

☞The Essex County Education Convention is held at Topsfield this forenoon. We trust it will escape the imputation, which it has deserved at some former times, of being the least well attended of all the series of County Conventions in this State.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 15, 1841.

TEACHERS' MEETING.

The annual meeting of the "Essex County Teachers' Association" was held at Topsfield on Friday and Saturday of last week, and on the former day the annual "Common School Convention" for the County, was held. These meetings were well attended, and the exercises were highly interesting, appropriate and instructive.

On Friday, A. M., Rev. Mr. Perry, of Bradford, gave an interesting lecture on the best means of preventing profaneness and immorality of pupils. Mr. Perry has for many years taken an active part in every movement whose object was the improvement of our schools or the general diffusion of knowledge, and probably no man in the county has labored more zealously or successfully. His remarks are always of that common sense, practical nature which are well and profitably received.

After listening to the lecture of Mr. Perry, the Association adjourned till Saturday morning, in order that the 'Common School Convention' might be organized, which was done by the appointment of Rev. Lyman Coleman, of Andover, Chairman, and Edwin Josselyn, Esq., of Salem, Secretary.

In the afternoon, the Convention was addressed by Hon. Horace Mann, Secretary of the Board of Education. It would be in vain to attempt a description of this address. Like all former performances of the kind which we have listened to from this gentleman, this was characterized by a vividness and healthy expression, force and clearness of thought, and soul-stirring effect, that can only be properly estimated by an actual hearer. Mr. Mann brings his whole soul to the great work in which he is engaged, and by his untiring industry and devotion he performs an almost incredible amount of labor—and we think that to his efforts many a child is indebted for the great improvements which have been made in the convenience, pleasantness and comfort of school rooms. Mr. M.'s address was followed by animated and interesting discussions.

On Saturday, the exercises before the Teachers' Association were lectures from Cornelius Walker, Esq., of Boston, and from

Hon. H. Mann, the former on reading and the latter on spelling. Neither time nor space would allow a synopsis of these lectures. Suffice it to say that they were listened to with *much* interest by the audience.

The attendance throughout these meetings was very respectable, and on no occasion have we seen a collection of female teachers so large, and apparently so intelligent, and of this number Salem could claim a very fair proportion.

The Essex County Teachers' Association has been in existence twelve years, and we rejoice in its brightening prospects of usefulness, and we hope to see the day when meetings like these, for the improvement of our schools and teachers, shall excite at least as much interest in our community as do our 'Mechanic Fairs,' 'Cattle Shows,' and other conventions or associations. And when we see such men as the Hon. Messrs. Phillips and Mann contributing their influence, as on this occasion, to encourage and sustain teachers' associations, we may well think that a "better day *is* dawning."

N.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 19, 1841.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY. The winter term of this Institution will commence on Wednesday, December 1st, and continue 17 weeks.—The School will be under the charge of Mr. EDMUND F. SLAFTER, A. B., whose qualifications and experience in teaching may be regarded as a pledge, that a thorough and efficient course of instruction will be pursued, and that none will be disappointed who may place their children under his care.

Tuition in the English Branches $5 per quarter
" " Languages $6 " "

Board in respectable families, near the Academy, may be had for $1.50 to $2.00 per week.

B. P. ADAMS, Secretary.

Topsfield, Nov. 12.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 16, 1841.

Topsfield.—RICHARD PHILLIPS, jr., Esq., has been appointed Postmaster of Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 14, 1841.

Seventy-nine persons signed a call for a State convention of dealers and manufacturers engaged in the boot, shoe, and leather business to consider impending changes in the tariff on leather fabrics. Among them were Richard Phillips and Charles Herrick of Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 18, 1842.

TOPSFIELD, Feb. 24, 1842.

Mr. Editor,—At a meeting of the Manufacturers and Operatives of Topsfield, engaged in the Shoe and Leather business, holden at the Centre School Room, on Wednesday evening, Feb. 23, 1842, for the purpose of selecting a list of Delegates to the Convention to assemble at Boston, on Wednesday the second day of March next.

The meeting was called to order by R. Phillips, Jr., and Nath. Conant was chosen Chairmain, and H. D. Merriam, Secretary.

The following gentlemen were selected to cooperate with their friends in the trade from other parts of the State.

Erastus Clark,	G. Hubbard,
Charles Herrick,	Benj. Kimball,
R. Phillips, Jr.,	John Wright,
Zaccheus Gould,	J. L. Gould,
Josiah Bradstreet,	H. A. Merriam,
Joel Lake,	Humphrey Balch,
Wm. G. Lake,	E. S. Bixby,
Nath. Conant,	E. G. Town,
Eben. Eastman,	B. C. Perkins,
Samuel Janes,	E. Lake, Jr.,
R. Phillips,	L. H. Gould,
B. P. Adams,	Thos. Gould,
Nath. Perkins, Jr.,	L. K. Chapman,
T. L. Lane,	Adam Wellman,
Fred. Stiles,	L. H. Coll,
A. S. Peabody,	Andrews Gould,
Amos Perkins, Jr.	

Voted, That a committee be chosen to procure statistics relative to the trade in this town.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 25, 1842.

BANKRUPT APPLICANTS, IN ESSEX COUNTY.

Topsfield—Joseph W. Batchelder, Joel Lake, Silas Lake, Wm. C. Lake, Isaiah M. Small,

Salem Gazette, Mar. 1, 1842.

Applications for Bankruptcy, in Essex County.

Topsfield,—Thomas Averill, Abraham Balch, Samuel Janes, John Perley.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 29, 1842.

DIED. In Rumford, Maine, on the 21st inst., Rev. DANIEL GOULD, in the 90th year of his age. He was born at Topsfield, Mass., in 1752, and has relatives now living there. He was pursuing his studies, at "Dummer Academy," in Newbury, at the commencement of the Revolutionary war. But he, obeying the call of his country, went into its service at the commencement and continued there nearly two years. He and his brother Samuel were in a company of Guards under Maj. Gen. Lee. Upon leaving, he completed his studies at Harvard University, in Cambridge, where he was graduated in the year 1782. He then commenced the study of Divinity, and has, for the most of the time since, been a Minister of the gospel.

Salem Gazette, May 31, 1842.

☞About $175 were collected at the Fair, held by the ladies of Topsfield, on the 4th inst., for the purpose of raising funds to defray the expense of dressing a new church, to be erected the present season by the Congregational Society.

Salem Gazette, July 12, 1842.

DIED. In Irondequoit, N. Y., on Saturday afternoon, 30th ult. Dea. SAMUEL BRADSTREET, formerly of Topsfield, Mass., aged 52. He dropped down in a fit near the door of his dwelling and immediately expired. He was in the enjoyment of his usual good health, but thus, in a moment, struck down and his early career terminated.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 23, 1842.

DIED. In Topsfield, 12th inst. Mr. WILLIAM P. CUMMINGS, aged 24. Seldom is it that the grave closes over the remains of one more deeply lamented than the object of this obituary notice. Attached to this world by every tie that can render it dear, and at an age when ardent and cherished hopes held out every prospect of a long and happy life, he was suddenly called, after a short and painful illness of one week, to take a last farewell of earthly friends, and go and dwell with the blessed spirits above.

Salem Gazette, August 26, 1842.

THE BRIGADE REVIEW at Lynn yesterday, but for the unpropitious weather, would have been one of the most beautiful parades ever had in this quarter, * * * Some of the companies remained on the field last night, but the Topsfield Warren Blues passed through this city, on their way home this morning.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 16, 1842.

Accident in Topsfield. On Saturday last, a carpenter, by the name of Briant, was seriously injured by a fall from the staging at the eaves of the new meeting house, in Topsfield. One of the boards of the staging was of insufficient strength, and broke with his weight when he stepped upon it.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 20, 1842.

A CARD.

The Topsfield Warren Blues tender their thanks to the officers and members of the Lynn Rifle Corps for a sumptuous collation, of which they were cordially welcomed to partake, on the evening of the 14th. Also, to the citizens of Lynn for their kindness in providing lodgings, &c., for us while there.

Also, to the citizens of Danvers Plains, for a collation on their return.

Also, to the Manchester Brass Band, for their services and disposition to please during their campaign.

A. PERKINS, Jr., Clerk pro tem.

Topsfield, Sept. 20, 1842.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 23, 1842.

Died. In Topsfield, 22 inst., Mr. Joshua Towne, aged 87, a soldier of the Revolution.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 27, 1842.

Died. In Topsfield, on Saturday afternoon, after a long and distressing illness, Mr. William Preston Dodge, aged 32.

In the death of this worthy man, his family and the community in which he lived have sustained an irreparable loss. With a disposition uniformly mild, amiable and conciliating, and which prompted to unwearied diligence in "doing good," and with a character distinguished for all those graces which adorn the life of a christian, Mr. Dodge not only enjoyed the confidence of his associates, but contributed in no small degree to their happiness. To all who have enjoyed his society his memory will be precious;—and, while they experience a high sense of satisfaction in reflecting upon the goodness of his character, may they feel disposed to follow in his footsteps, and to emulate his virtues.

The numerous circle of relatives and friends who are mourning this afflicting and mysterious dispensation of Providence, may find much consolation in the promises which the Gospel so richly affords. They mourn not as those without hope;—for while they remember the life of faithful piety which character-

ized the departed, they will rejoice in the assurance, that he is now removed from the sources of all his former afflictions, to that world where

"Sickness and sorrow, pain and death
Are felt and feared no more."—Com.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 11, 1842.

[Asa Pingree of Topsfield was nominated as a candidate for Senator, at a Locofoco Convention held at Ipswich on Oct. 12, 1842.]

Salem Gazette, October 14, 1842.

Fire in Topsfield. We learn from a correspondent in Topsfield, that the dwelling house of Mr. Cyrus Webster caught fire on Sunday night last, but by the prompt and energetic exertions of Mr. Samuel Janes, and other neighbors, the flames were arrested and the house saved, with a loss of about fifty dollars damage. Had the fire been discovered five minutes later, the house, barn, sheds, &c., must have been destroyed, and the new meeting house, which is in progress of erection, and other buildings in this vicinity, would have been in imminent danger as the wind blew strong from the Northwest.

Salem Register, Oct. 20, 1842.

Died. In Boston, on the 22d ult. at the residence of her son-in-law (Mr. Brownell), where she had gone in feeble health to spend the months of the coming winter, Mrs. Ruth B. Emerson, widow of the late Mr. Billy Emerson, of Topsfield, at the advanced age of 75 years. In recording this brief memento to departed worth, it may justly be said, she served her generation by the will of God, and fell asleep, and has left a numerous circle of relatives in tears. Various were the relations she sustained in life and sedulously did she discharge the obligations consequent on those relations. The poor have lost a ready friend, the benevolent enterprises of the day a cheerful patron, the community a worthy citizen, and the church of God an honored member. Her life being eminently righteous, her death, as might be expected, was peaceful as the setting sun.

Servant of God, farewell! farewell!
Thy battle's fought, thy prize is won;
This be our consolation—all is well.—[Com.]

Salem Gazette, Nov. 1, 1842.

Died. In Topsfield, Mrs. Irena Hubbard, wife of Mr. Humphrey A. Hubbard, aged about 40 years. This is a new affliction

in that series by which Mr. Hubbard's family has been recently visited in quick succession.—Last August in the space of one week, three promising children, all he had, were laid in the grave. In a few days, Mrs. Averill, the mother of Mrs. Hubbard, followed. The health of Mrs. Hubbard has ever been delicate, but now commenced a gradual decline which terminated her life.

She was naturally of an amiable, retiring disposition and anxious to deserve the respect and esteem of her acquaintance. But in her domestic relations, her excellence was more peculiarly developed. Few mothers were more affectionate and devoted, few wives more kind and attentive. Her delight was in her home, her happiness in the welfare of her family. Her death has made that home desolate. But her husband, though bereft of children and wife, is not compelled to sorrow as those who have no hope. His departed companion had for many years been a member of the church of Christ and there is reason to believe, a humble follower of the Redeemer. Her recent trials served to prepare her for death, and they may also have served to hasten the event. She rests, we trust, where sickness never invades; tears are never shed; and parting sighs are never uttered.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 29, 1842.

Concert in Topsfield. We have seen the programme of a Concert of Sacred Music to be given in Topsfield on Wednesday evening, 22d inst. The selections are from many of the best authors, and from what we know of the abilities of some of the performers we do not hesitate to assure our Topsfield friends that a rich treat is in store for them. The Concert is to be under the direction of Messrs. Moses Sears and Wm. R. Hubbard.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 21, 1843.

Dedication. The new Meeting House recently erected by the Congregational Parish, in Topsfield, will be dedicated on Wednesday, 22d inst. Sermon by Rev. Mr. McLoud, the Pastor. Services to commence at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 21, 1843.

DEDICATION IN TOPSFIELD.

The new meeting house recently erected by the Congregational parish in Topsfield was dedicated on Wednesday last. The services, which were highly interesting and impressive, were as follows:

Anthem—"Glory be to God on high." Invocation, and Reading of Scriptures, by Rev. Mr. Coggin, of Boxford.

Anthem—"The Great Jehovah is our awful theme."

Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Fitz, of Ipswich.

Original Hymn.

Sermon, by Rev. Mr. McLoud, pastor of the church.

Dedicatory Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Braman, Georgetown.

Original Hymn. Doxology. Benediction.

The sermon was from 95th Psalm, 6th and 7th verses. The preacher delineated in a forcible manner the duty of a regular and conscientious attendance upon the public social worship of God, and portrayed some of the many moral and spiritual priviledges and advantages which those are sure to realize who go up to the House of the Lord in company, and who are careful to discharge the obligations, which attach to every community, to maintain public worship and to give at least one day in the week to the assembling themselves together,

"To hear of Jesus and of Heaven."

One remark of the preacher, however well it may apply to his own parish, would not be less opportune in many other churches. The hint so pointedly conveyed might be observed with profit by the members of other congregations than those widely scattered over country towns. He said that in the old house the attendance had been generally good, nevertheless *there were always some spare seats*, in which many more worshippers could be accommodated. He hoped it would not be so in future, but that in respect to the attendance of the people of the parish, "the glory of this latter house would exceed that of the former."

The discourse was a plain, practical, common sense production, creditable to both the head and heart of the preacher. If it be duly appreciated by those who heard it, much good will be the result.

The musical performances, under the direction of Messrs. W. R. Hubbard and M. Sears, were excellent, and peculiarly appropriate to the occasion.

The house stands upon the spot which the old one occupied, and is a neat, commodious and comfortable place of worship. The style of the finish and decoration, particularly of its interior, combines the simple and the beautiful in a very pleasing manner.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 24, 1843.

The editor of the Bangor Whig gives the following account of his visit to our little city :

Wood cut of House.

VALUABLE FARM IN TOPSFIED.

The subscriber offers for sale, his Farm in Topsfield, formerly the estate of the late Billy Emerson. Said Farm contains about thirty five acres, nearly all of which is *first rate Grass Land.* Also—a large, square, three story House in good repair; a beautiful garden, with choice Fruit and Ornamental Trees, a large Barn, Wood and Carriage House; two wells of excellent water, and other conveniences.

The above is one of the most desirable situations in the County of Essex, being beautifully situated in the immediate vicinity of a most enterprising and thrifty population; only nine miles from Salem, twelve from Newburyport and Haverhill; within a few rods of the new Congregational and Methodist Churches, and but a short distance from the Academy and Town Schools.

The premises can be examined and further information obtained of Richard Phillips, Jr., Charles H. Holmes, or Wm. Cleveland, Esqs., of Topsfield, or

GILBERT BROWNELL,
No. 94 Washington Street, Boston.
Salem Gazette, Jan. 30, 1844.

BRANCH RAILROAD.

An intelligent correspondent gives us the following memoranda, to show the advantages of a branch Railroad from Georgetown, to connect with the Eastern Railroad:

A route for a Railroad has been surveyed from Georgetown to Bradford, to connect with the upper route to Boston. One route has been surveyed from Georgetown to Ipswich, or old Rowley. A route from Georgetown, through Topsfield and North and South Danvers, would be a feasible route, and one which would pay a handsome profit; and it would accommodate the public much better than any other. The Georgetown people would get to Boston with some 3 or 4 miles less travel than by the upper route. The freight and passenger money would, from Georgetown, amount to $12,000; from West Newbury, 3 or $4000; Topsfield, $3000; North Danvers. from 8 to $12,000; South Danvers, probably 12 or $14,000. It would be the route of shoe buyers from Lynn to Georgetown and S. Haverhill; would take the Southern travel which now goes on the upper route, and could be made cheap, as the route would be a very level one.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 2, 1844.

RAIL ROAD MEETING.

A numerously attended meeting of the citizens of North and South Danvers was held at Union Hall, in South Danvers, on Friday Evening, February 2d, to take into consideration the project of constructing a Railroad from Georgetown through the towns of Topsfield and Danvers, to intersect with the Eastern Railroad at Salem. A number of influential citizens from Topsfield were present.

The meeting was called to order by Elias Putnam, Esq., of North Danvers, and organized by the choice of Dr. Andrew Nichols as Chairman, and W. L. Weston, Secretary.

The objects of the meeting were briefly stated by the chairman, who was followed by John W. Proctor and Elias Putnam, Esqs., who set forth the advantages to be derived from such a road.

J. W. Proctor, Dr. Osborn, Elias Putnam, Samuel Preston, of Danvers, and John Wright, of Topsfield, were appointed a committee to prepare resolutions to be laid before the meeting. In the absence of the committee, the meeting was addressed in a spirited manner by Dr. Merriam and B. P. Adams, Esq., of Topsfield. They stated that they had conferred with a number of the leading citizens of Georgetown, who expressed themselves warmly in favor of the enterprise,—they had estimated that their business would pay from 12 to $14,000 a year. Henry Poor of Danvers spoke of the business of South Danvers, and thought the amount would exceed that of Georgetown, and that his place would be benefited quite as much as any other of the places through which the road is proposed to pass; he could mention individuals whose freight bill alone would amount to 3 or $400. Mr. Phillips of Topsfield thought the business of his place would exceed $3000.

[Resolutions summarizing the intent of the meeting were adopted.]

Salem Gazette, Feb. 6, 1844.

Georgetown, Topsfield and Danvers Railroad. A survey of this route is now being made, by Mr. Frederick W. Lander, engineer, of Danvers. The survey will be completed in a few days.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 13, 1844.

[On Feb. 14, 1844, Mr. Brackett, representative from Topsfield, presented to the Legislature, a petition from Samuel Adams and others, for the construction of a fishway through Farley's dam [Willowdale], on Ipswich river.]

Salem Gazette, Feb. 16, 1844.

Valuable Real Estate in Topsfield—at Auction.

By order of the Probate Court on TUESDAY, the second day of April next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., will be sold at Public Auction, in the town of Topsfield, on the premises hereafter described, for the purpose of raising the sum of fifteen hundred dollars to pay debts and charges of administration upon the estate of Isaac *Killam*, late of Topsfield, deceased, the following described parcels of Real Estate.

Woodcut of House. The Homestead and Farm of said Isaac *Killam*, consisting of the House and other buildings, and about 65 acres of land connected therewith, and lying on the north and south sides of the highway leading to Boxford—being mowing, tillage, pasture and meadow land—about three-fourths of a mile from Topsfield meeting-house, and on said Boxford road. Also, a Wood Lot in Boxford, about five acres, well wooded, and bounded by Oliver Peabody, Thomas Averill and others. Also, three and one half acres of River Meadow in Topsfield, bounded by the highway and near Rowley bridge on the east. Also, one acre of Brook Meadow, in said Topsfield, bounded by land of Josiah L. Gould, Foster, Allen Gould, and others. Also, three quarters of an acre of Peat Meadow, in said Topsfield, called the Gould Meadow.

Or so much of the above premises, beginning with the House and Buildings and land connected therewith, on the northerly side of the road aforesaid, as will raise the aforesaid sum of fifteen hundred dollars. Terms made known at the time of the sale. By order

ASAHEL HUNTINGTON, Adm'r.
WM. G. LAKE, Auct.

Topsfield, March 11.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 12, 1844.

[The Convention to nominate County Commissioners was held at the Village Hotel in Topsfield on Wednesday, Mar. 27, 1844, Asa Wildes, of Newburyport (born in Topsfield), headed the list.]

Salem Gazette, Mar. 29, 1844.

☞The "Report of the Topsfield School Committee" from the pen of R. Phillips, jr., Esq., is of uncommon interest.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 5, 1844.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The Spring Term of this Institution will commence on THURSDAY, April 18, and continue eleven weeks.

Tuition—English branches	—$4.00
Languages,	$5.00
Board in good families,	$1.25 to $1.75.

Per order of Committee.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 16, 1844.

AT AUCTION IN TOPSFIELD.

On THURSDAY, the 18th of April current, at 3 o'clock, P. M., will be sold, at the store of B. P. Adams,

Woodcut of House.

The following Real Estate, belonging to the estate of Frederick Perley, an insolvent, viz.

The right to redeem the following Lots of Land, with the buildings thereon, viz:

One building Lot, bounded by Topsfield Road, 4 1-2 rods, and by land of John Sawyer, about 12 rods; by land of Moses Wildes, about 5 rods, and by land of Solomon Wildes, about 14 rods.

Also—A Lot of Land, bounded by Topsfield road 4 1-2 rods, and by land of Benjamin Kimball, about 16 rods; by land of Wm. Cleaveland, about 6 rods, and by Academy road, about 16 rods, to the bounds first mentioned; with one large Dwelling House, finished throughout, and convenient for 4 families; with stable 30 by 40 feet.

Also—1 share in Topsfield Academy.

J. H. WARD, Assignee.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 16, 1844.

To the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, holden at Salem, within and for the County of Essex, on the third Monday of March, 1844.

The petition of Zaccheus Gou ld, of Topsfield, in said County of Essex, yeoman, shows that your petitioner is interested in and holds in common and u ndivided, certain parcels of Real Estate, viz: thirty-seven acres of wood and pasture land in the town of Boxford, bounded by Crooked pond; by land formerly Nath'l Gould's; by land of Oliver Kilham, and by land of John Balch; his share of this parcel being six sevenths of one third part;

the other owners being David Towne and William Hubbard of Topsfield.

Eleven and three quarters acres of Woodland, situated in Boxford, bounded by land of Wm. Low, Samuel Gould, Israel Rea, and Andrew Gould, his share being six sevenths of one half; the other owners being Huldah Perley, wife of Artemas W. Perley of Hampstead, N. H., Mrs. Anna Lake, wife of Enoch Lake of Boxford, Daniel Boardman of Georgetown, Elizabeth James, wife of Samuel Janes of Topsfield, and Nancy Goodale, wife of Samuel Goodale of Boxford.

Five acres of tillage and pasture land, situated in Topsfield, bounded by land of Wm. R. Hubbard, Humphrey G. Hubbard, Benjamin F. Hubbard, all of Topsfield and Moses Wildes of Boston; his share of this parcel being six sevenths of the same, the other owners being Huldah Perley, Anna Lake, Daniel Boardman, Elizabeth Janes and Nancy Goodale before named if our petitioner is desirous of holding his share in said parcels of land in severalty. Wherefore he prays that partition of the premises may be ordered and that Commissioners, may be appointed to set off his share by metes and bounds, to be held by him and his heirs and assigns forever. And as in duty bound will ever pray.

ZACCHEUS GOULD by
J. W. PROCTOR, his Att'y.

[The persons at interest were ordered to appear at a Court held at Ipswich the third Monday in June following.]

Salem Gazette, Apr. 16, 1844.

☞Recent movements in the pleasant town of Topsfield exhibit a very commendable degree of public spirit, on the part of the inhabitants. The town has voted to build a new and suitable school house in every district, and have chosen a committee to build the same. There is also an active interest to ornament and improve the beautiful common by setting out ornamental trees and filling up ponds. A new meeting house, as our readers are aware, has recently been erected. The ladies of the Congregational parish are busily at work for the purpose of building a vestry. The ladies of the Methodist Society are as actively engaged, their object being to build a vestry under the church. Quite a number of dwelling houses are building this season, and a laudable interest is manifested in regard to improvements in general.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 30, 1844.

DIED. In Topsfield, Mr. STEPHEN W. LEMONT, aged 27—a native of Litchfield, (Maine),—a worthy and exemplary young man.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 30, 1844.

DIED In Topsfield, Jan 7, Mrs. KEZIA Hiscock, aged 23—a native of Chipman, County of Wiltshire, England,

Salem Gazette, Jan. 14, 1845.

DIED. In Manchester 21st inst, (at the home of her son-in-law, Rev. O. A. Taylor,) Mrs. EXPERIENCE CLEAVELAND, relict of the late Hon. Nehemiah Cleaveland, of Topsfield, in the 81st year of her age.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 31, 1845.

THE SNOW STORM, which commenced on Tuesday forenoon, continued through the greater part of the night, and is said to have been the most severe we have had for many years.* * * The Haverhill mail was taken by Mr. Pinkham in a light sleigh. * * * The snow is very deep, and the roads are almost impassable, back of us. Our friends in Topsfield turned out with great spirit, on Wednesday, to remove the embargo, at a cost to the town of about three hundred dollars. The process they adopted is ingenious, and seems preferable to the old fashioned "heater." They fastened a very heavy log, 8 or 10 feet in length across the front of the sled, and then filling the sled as heavily as possible with shovellers, and dragged by a sufficient number of oxen they pursued their route, thus levelling the high banks, and pushing the snow before the log over the bare places, so as to make good sleighing all the way through. They made the road good to the Danvers line, and at the Georgetown line they were met by the people of that town, who continued the good work. The Topsfield people aided Mr. Pinkham along, with his mails, partly by the road, and in part through the pastures, as far as Boxford.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 7, 1845.

FARM AT AUCTION.

Will be sold at public auction on TUESDAY, 25th day of March, inst., at 1 o'clock, P. M. in Topsfield.

The Farm formerly belonging to the late Isaac Killam, consisting of about seventy acres of good land, well divided in

mowing, pasturing and tillage; two never failing wells of water, the buildings consist of a large double house and large barn with a shed attached to the same, grainery, chaise house and piggery, and other out buildings, all in good repair, together with several choice fruit trees. Also, a very valuable peat meadow on said farm. Said farm is well fenced with good stone wall—situated on the main road from Salem to Boxford, about 3-4 of a mile from the flourishing village of Topsfield and in all respects a very desirable situation for a gentleman of leisure and worthy the attention of purchasers.

Sale will be positive on the premises. Conditions made known at time and place, which will be liberal. For further particulars enquire of

W. G. LAKE, Auct's.

Topsfield, March 4, 1845.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 7, 1845.

Accident. Mr. John Bradstreet, of Topsfield, a respectable young man, had his leg badly shattered on Wednesday last, while riding. He observed that his harness was out of place, and, when he was endeavoring to put it right, his house kicked and broke his leg, mangling the flesh and causing it to bleed fearfully. He is now doing as well as could be expected, considering the severe injury he received.—*Reg.*

Salem Gazette, Mar. 25, 1845.

Richard Phillips, Jr., of Topsfield, has been appointed one of the Justices of the Peace, and Coroner, for the County of Essex.

Salem Gazette, May 20, 1845.

Fires in Salem. [In an account of a fire on Boston Street, occurs the following:] The large building, formerly the Topsfield meeting house, belonging to George Nichols, jr. and occupied by him and Charles Harrington, for tanning and currying, was a times on fire and somewhat injured, but saved by great exertions.

Salem Gazette, June 10, 1845.

ESSEX COUNTY.

The following well founded remarks, from the Haverhill Gazette, present a true picture of Essex County as it was, and is:—

Probably no portion of Massachusetts of the same extent, has furnished more emigrants to settle abroad in the different

States than the County of Essex. So great was the emigration that in the opinion of good judges there has been little if any increase of inhabitants for sixty years, prior to 1820.

The innumerable cellars and remains of chimneys now standing in the remote parts of almost every town, whose firesides had become extinct, compared with any increase which had then taken place in our towns and villages, go far to prove to population of this county was then rather declining than increasing.

Few manufactories had sprung up among us, except those strictly domestic. Many had settled on the poorer lands, from which the rich valley of the Connecticut, and the still richer lands of the West had tempted them to remove: their farms were sold out to become pastures to their more prosperous neighbors, and the houses were pulled down that the rich farmer might not be encumbered by the vicinity of some poor family, who from that time would naturally become their only tenants. It would be truly surprising to any one not acquainted with the fact, to go over our back grounds, and witness the numerous deserted locations which were once the abode of happy families, now desolate, and many of them actually buried in new grown forests.

The building of a new house was an important event in a town or neighborhood, and marked the year in which it took place. The houses were of course ancient, and almost all unpainted, and the painting white of the window frames and sashes of a certain house in Rowley, now Georgetown, was spoken of by a neighbor as marking the pride and aspiring disposition of the owner, who was frequently dignified by them with the title of "Prince."

About 1820, a new spirit came over the State and County, and from that time many more have come into the county than have left it. Under the Tariff of 1816 and '24, manufactories sprang up in every quarter. Our villages have increased—new buildings have risen, and any town or parish which does not add a half dozen dwellings a year to their accommodation is quite left behind its neighbors.

Since that time more than 200 houses have been built in Haverhill, Georgetown and Andover, 100 in Bradford, and a proportionate number in Topsfield, West Newbury and other towns in this part of the County, while the extraordinary increase of business in Lynn, Danvers, and other southern towns in the County, fully sustains their part of the statement.

The population of the County in 1790 was 57,913—in 1840 it was 94,987, and the business of the County has increased in a much larger ratio.

Salem Gazette, June 24, 1845.

NOTICE.

That portion of Danvers, hitherto called "Blind Hole," will hereafter be known by the name "Putnamville."

Salem Gazette, June 24, 1845.

Accident in Topsfield. We learn that on Saturday last, as Mr. Erastus Clark, a respectable and industrious farmer in Topsfield, was employed in tending a threshing machine, he had his right hand caught in the clogs of the cylinder, and the thumb and little finger were instantly torn entirely from the hand. The rest of the fingers and hand were also much bruised and lacerated—*Adv.*

Salem Gazette, Aug. 15, 1845.

Youthful Crime. Two young men belonging to Topsfield, one about 16, and the other 19 years of age, ran away from their parents one day last week, having in their possession about one thousand dollars in money and notes. Having been advertised in some of the papers, an interest was taken in the matter to secure them. On Tuesday, as the 3 o'clock train of cars was coming from Boston, one of the Express men attached to the road, discovered them by the description before given. Just before the cars arrived at Breed's wharf in Lynn, the little rascals leaped upon the marshes and endeavored to make their escape. Word being left with proper authority concerning their where abouts, Constables Phillips and Stone were despatched in pursuit of them, and after a search of four hours, found them at Mr. Tilton's store, Front street, where they were awaiting the arrival of the next train for Portland, having previously purchased tickets to go through, but presuming they were detected, bolted the first opportunity. They were armed with dirk-knives and pistols, and made severe threats to any who should dare molest them.—*Advertiser.*

Salem Gazette, Sept. 2, 1845.

Methuen and Newburyport Railroad.

A writer in the Newburyport Herald thinks that the proposed road should run along upon the banks of the Merrimac accomodating Amesbury village with a depot somewhere not far from Powow river Bridge, and passing through Haverhill and the new city to Lowell. "Let Georgetown," says the writer, "be accomodated by a road from Haverhill to Salem, accomodating Topsfield in like manner, when they shall please to construct it."

Salem Gazette, Oct. 28, 1845.

We are indebted to Mr. C. Herrick, of Topsfield, for New York papers in advance of the mail.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 19, 1845.

Died. In Topsfield, Dec. 9, Mrs. Mary Towne, aged 76, widow of the late Jacob Towne, Esq. Mrs. T. was a lady of no ordinary character. With an expansive mind and retentive memory she had acquired a knowledge of things in general, surpassed but by few, and many were they who sought of her that information of historical events long since past, which she was always ready to impart with precision and accuracy. She was fond of reading and when her time was not occupied by domestic or other important objects, she was storing it with useful knowledge. It is said of her and I believe with truth, that she had read every number of the *Salem Gazette* since its first publication, and had them preserved in file up to the time of her death. She was familiar with all the most important events which had transpired within her knowledge for the last sixty years. She was "a mother in Israel." Having a heart to feel and hand to give, and poor and needy found in her a friend and benefactor, and her deeds of charity endeared her to a large circle, who will long feel her loss. For nearly fifty years she was a member of the Church in Topsfield, and by her works manifested her faith—*Communicated.*

Salem Gazette, Jan. 6, 1846.

Bill of Mortality for the Town of Topsfield, for the year 1845.

Jan. 1, Benjamin Albert, only son of Benjamin Adams, aged 3 years; 7th, Mrs. Keziah Hitchcock, aged 22; 10th, Daniel Averill, aged 74. Feb. 16th, Ruth Eliza, only daughter of Benjamin Adams, aged 1 year. March 2d, Widow Sarah Balch, aged 75; 6th, Ellen Edna, child of L. H. Gould, aged 2. April 8th, Widow Salome Perkins, aged 75. June 9th, Mehitable Towne, aged 50; 22d, Daniel Towne, aged 56. Aug. 3d, Jane Beckers, aged 5; a child of William Fears, aged 8 mos. Sept. 9th, Abigail Perkins, wife of R. S. Perkins, aged 22 years; 20th, John Bachelder, aged 78. Oct. 1st, Anna Lake, wife of the late Enos Lake, aged 62; 6th, Joseph Peabody, aged 80; 17th, Joseph Hart, aged 70; 18th, Walter, son of Asa Bradstreet, aged 18 months; 29th, Harriet, wife of Ebenezer Eastman, aged 22 years. Nov. 15th, Mariette B., daughter of Wm. G. Lake, aged 10; 22d, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas L. Lane, aged 24;

27th, Edwin Wallace, only son of A. P. Averill, aged 7. Dec. 9th, Mary Towne, wife of the late Jacob Towne, aged 77.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 6, 1846.

DIED. In Topsfield, on the 22d ult, Mr. NATHANIEL PERKINS, jr., aged 32 years. He was a man possessed of sterling integrity, and unobtrusive but sincere piety; and was universally respected for his sincerity of heart, his gentlemanly deportment, and uprightness of character. During his life he uniformly displayed an unwavering attachment to his friends, a sincere love for the political institutions of his country and a deep reverence for morality and religion.

Within the brief period of a few weeks, the parents of the deceased have followed to the silent grave one son and two daughters; at that interesting period in life, when just setting out in the world for themselves, bright and promising, their parents' joy and hope, they were seized with that fell disease which annually sweeps off so many of the sons and daughters of New England.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 27, 1846.

TOWN OFFICERS IN TOPSFIELD, 1846.

Town Clerk—Jacob P. Towne.
Selectmen—John G. Hood, Wm. Hubbard, Thomas L. Lane.
Assessors—Nehemiah Balch, John Hood, Josiah Bradstreet.
Overseers—Jos. W. Batchelder, Wm. Hubbard, B. C. Orne.
School Committee—John G. Hood, Wm. E. Kimball, Thomas L. Lane, John C. Balch, David Clarke.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 13, 1846.

Danvers and Georgetown Railroad. At a meeting of this Corporation held last Wednesday afternoon, at the Town Rooms, the following gentlemen were chosen Directors for the ensuing year.

R. S. Daniels, George Osborne, Kendall Osborn, Henry Poor, David Daniels, E. W. Upton, Lewis Allen, John Kimball, R. A. Merriam.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 24, 1846.

[C. H. Holmes, assignee, advertised meetings of the creditors of William Wait, shoemaker, and Arial H. Gould, trader, both of Topsfield.]

Salem Gazette, May 9, 1846.

Assignee's Sale.

Will be sold at Public Auction on MONDAY, the 8th of June, at 2 o'clock, P. M., at the shop of HENRY LONG, in Topsfield,

All the personal estate of JOHN SAWYER, an insolvent debtor, consisting of one horse, one cow, horse-cart, sleigh, ploughs and various other articles; also several notes and bills of accounts.

After the sale of the above will be sold the real estate, consisting of a parcel of land near the Academy, in Topsfield, in lots to suit purchasers.

Also about two acres of River Meadow situated on the 'Bunkers' (so called), adjoining the barn lot.

Also about two acres of Peat Meadow on 'Hassocky Meadow,' (so called) bounded by land of Ebenezer Peabody, Nehemiah Perkins and others, in lots to suit purchasers.

Also about three fourths of an acre of Peat Meadow near the house now occupied by said Sawyer.

Also one undivided half of about two acres of Peat Meadow situated in Linebrook parish, in Ipswich near the house of Ephraim Averell.

Also all right and title in and to one undivided eighth part of about one hundred and twenty acres of land situated in Litchfield, county of Kennebec, State of Maine.

Terms made known at time and place of sale.

JOHN G. HOOD, Assignee.

Topsfield, June 2, 1846.

Salem Gazette, June 2, 1846.

DIED. In Topsfield, suddenly Mrs. ANNA, wife of Mr. John B. Lake, and daughter of Mr. Zaccheus Gould, aged 33 years. This is the second time (within the short period of three years) that Mr. Lake has been called to follow a beloved wife to the silent tomb; and the afflicted parent, two lovely daughters.

Salem Gazette, June 16, 1846.

Benjamin C. Orne has been appointed Postmaster of Topsfield, in place of Richard Phillips, jr., Esq., who might have kept the office, if he had been willing to purchase continuance at the usual rate.

Salem Gazette, Aug. 7, 1846.

FOR THE GAZETTE.

MR. EDITOR,—I preceive by accounts in your and other papers, that the potato crop, in this and other countries, is

affected with disease, so prevalent last year. From three years experience upon the different methods of raising this valuable root, I am convinced, that unless we cast off the new mode of its cultivation, the potato will become entirely extinct. I find that where the old mode of cultivation has been continued, there has been no trouble with the rot. I refer to the mode of earthing up the land. Where this is done, and has been continued for years, there is no trouble with the disease; but where the mode is adopted of keeping the ground level and not earthing it up at all, and where this mode has been continued for three or four years, the disease is prevalent. If good seed be planted one year, and cultivated by keeping the ground level, the next fall the crop, will not be so good as the seed planted in the previous spring, for the disease has slightly injured it. The second year if the produce of the first be planted, the disease will plainly show itself. The third year the crop will be very much affected. The disease is not produced entirely in one year, but continues to grow upon the crop as time increases, with the modern mode of cultivating the land level, and with but very little earth upon the potato to protect it from the severe rays of the sun. The earth is a preserver of the potato, if rightly managed,and the sun's rays are a sure poison, as any one will perceive by exposing a potato to the influence of the sun for a day of two. For the protection of the potato it is necessary to have it well covered up with the earth. The severe hot rays of the sun and water that must stand on the land after a rain, where the ground is kept perfectly level, are sure to effect the potato, and then commences the disease.

After considerable enquiry, I have found that those farmers in this vicinity who have never adopted the manner of keeping their land level, but who have always earthed up their potatoes, and have planted the potatoes so raised, have never had any trouble with their crop. Water should never stand for any length of time upon the potato, and in earthing up the hill it necessarily causes small dippers in the rows of potatoes, which hold the water and cause it to soak into the ground under the potato. If the water lay upon the potato, and it is but slightly covered with the earth, the extreme heat of the sun, with the water that must stand up on the potato, produce this disease which will destroy the crop in a few years, where the new mode of cultivation is continued.

TOPSFIELD.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 4, 1846.

Correspondence of the Salem Gazette.

TOPSFIELD, Sept. 26, 1846.

MR. EDITOR,—I am emboldened by the example of your Lynn correspondent, to inform you that the same game is going on here. Certain emissaries of the Malden Railroad frequently condescend to visit us, to enlighten our ignorance, and pull the wires so that we may send men to the County Convention who will subserve the interests of that corporation. I have been partial to that road, and intended to make an investment of some of my small means in it; but I must confess that my gorge rises at the idea of a Whig Senatorial Convention being made to play second fiddle to a little money making scheme, for the aggrandisement of a few individuals. If these acute managers should succeed in the ingenious scheme of packing the Convention, which they have attempted, its nominations will not be worth a pinch of snuff—The Whigs of Essex will not tamely submit to having their organization perverted, to put money into the pockets of the Malden Railroad Company.

TOPSFIELD.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 29, 1846.

☞ We are desired to mention, that the letter signed "Topsfield" in our last paper, was not written by the same person who wrote an article under that signature, in reference to potato rot, a few weeks since.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 2, 1846.

A MELANCHOLY END. The life of an elderly man, belonging to this city, was brought to a melancholy termination, on Friday of last week. His name was Knight, and some years ago, in a fit of intemperance, both his feet were so badly frozen that it was found necessary to amputate them. He has since sometimes been supported in our workhouse, from which he eloped about two months ago. Last Friday, he was found under a wall in Boxford or Topsfield, where it seems, he had been lying nine or ten days. He was removed, and taken care of, but survived only a short time, and was yesterday buried in this city.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 6, 1846.

RAILROAD MEETING.

At a railroad meeting held at Boxford, Nov. 4th, by a repectable number of gentlemen from Topsfield, Boxford and Georgetown.

Chose Col. John Kimball, chairman, and David Mighill, secretary of said meeting.

Chose a committee from the following towns, viz:—

Georgetown,—George J. Tenney, Col. John Kimball and Benjamin Little, Esq.

Boxford,—Gen. Solomon Low, Thomas Sawyer, Daniel Andrews and Samuel W. Jenkins.

Topsfield,—Dr. Joseph Batchelder, John Wright, and Charles Herrick.

The object of this meeting and the duty of the above committee is to lay before the Directors of the Salem, Danvers, and New City railroad, and the public, that the road ought to run through the manufacturing villages of Topsfield, Boxford both villages, and Georgetown to Andover north depot, rather than from Danvers to Swan's Corner (so called.) That the utility of railroads is to connect the interior of a country with the seaboard, this cannot be denied. We ask where in our county for the length of way, can be found a more level and convenient location for a railroad than through these flourishing villages of Topsfield, Boxford, Georgetown, and West Boxford, to North Andover depot. Not in our county, and we presume not in the state, and not more than four miles further than the contemplated route from Danvers to Swan's Corner (so called). If the contemplated route is rather a level way by following meadows and swamps, and the uplands hard and rocky; we ask if the grading cannot be done vastly cheaper where it is almost all upland and a sandy soil and free from rocky ledges? The question may be easily answered by a very poor philosopher. The route from Topsfield to Boxford, everybody knows who has travelled over the ground, that it is a level plain, and from thence to Georgetown, but one elevation of twelve or fifteen feet, and but a few rods in length, and thence running west of Georgetown village making a very small curve, and shunning all the hills, and having a level plain to West Boxford, and from there in a straight course between Mr. Daniel Harriman and Mr. Jedediah H. Barker, through the hollow, and running south of Andover pond and to North Andover depot. We are sanguine that this route can be graded for less money, than the contemplated route; and when your course to Swan's corner, reaches the furthermost village, within five miles, we would ask any mathematical gentleman whether he can make four miles difference.

Taking into consideration these advantages, and when it is accomplished you will connect the very centre of the county with the seaboard, and greatly increase the value of the stock of

said road by a large number of tons of freight, and a goodly number of passengers. Even one of these villages amounts to 25 or 30 thousand tons annually; and not only these villages, but Bradford and West Newbury;—and on the other hand you will receive nothing of any amount, except at the two termini of said road, and all this loss to the advantages of the public and pecuniary advantages to said road, only to shun the making of four miles of road. Fine picture in the eyes of an enlightened public. You may say we will have a spur to Georgetown. Georgetown people are not of the low Dutch reformed, but of pure Anglo Saxon blood, too highly mettled to receive the goad or spur; they will do all in their power to forward the enterprise, and wish to share the advantages in common with their fellow citizens. And gentlemen, we wish you to view the ground with an unprejudiced eye, and we are self-confident you will answer our suplication.

The meeting stands adjourned to South Boxford, on Wednesday, (tomorrow,) at 7 o'clock, P. M.—A full attendance is requested—*Watchtower.*

Salem Gazette, Nov. 17, 1846.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

The Winter Term will commence on MONDAY, Nov. 30th, and continue Twelve Weeks.

Tuition—for both males and females, $4.50; Languages, $1.00; Music, $7.00; use of Piano, $2 extra. Board $1.50 to $2 per week.

Application may be made to the Principal, or in his absence, to Mr. B. P. Adams, near the Academy.

JOS. H. NOYES,
Principal.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 17, 1846.

(*To be continued.*)

THE

EARLY RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF

TOPSFIELD, MASS.

COPIED BY HENRY F. LONG.

(*Continued from Vol. XV, page* 104.)

The Town agreed that no Parson shall dig or Carry of any stones or rocks from of ye Parsonage above sd under the Pennalty of ten shilling per load for Every Load so dug or carried of voted

The Town agreed to fence in all ye Parsonage Land in Topsfield with a Leagall stone wall—or other sufficient fence by ye fift of march in 1724 voted

and also the Town agreed to fence in sd Parsonage Land by ye same rule and the same ten years Rates that ye Last Divisions of ye Common Lands in Topsfield was divided by voted

and Mr Nath^{ll} Porter Lieu^{t} Tho: Baker & mr Edward Putnam are Chosen a Com:itty to Apportion and Let to Every man his Proportion to fence about ye above sd parsonage according to the rule as is above Expresed voted

The Town allowed to Tobijah Perkins jun^{r} six shilling for Timber to mend the Bridge by Dec^{n} John howlets in ye year 1722 voted 0 6 0

The Town granted Liberty to ye inhabitants of Topsf^{d} on ye South Side of ye River, to Build a Pound where it may be most convenient for sd inhabitants and the Town will pay ye Charge voted

John Clark & Eben Nickols are Chosen Hogreeves for ye year Ensuing voted

Jacob Peabody being Chosen Town Clerk was sworn to ye faithfull discharge of y^{t} office before ye Selectmen Corp^{l} Nath^{ll} Borman Dec Jno Howlett Thomas gould Elisha Putnam & Jacob Peabody being Chosen Selectmen were Sworn Assessors before the Last years Selectmen Corp^{l} Jacob Robinson and Benj Knight being Chosen Constables were sworn to ye faithfull Discharge of their office before ye present Selectmen

Jno Hovey Edward Putnam & David Balch being Chosen tythingmen were sworn to ye faithfull discharge of their office before ye present Selectmen

Joseph Andrew Jacob Dorman Tho: Dwinell & ffrancis Peabody being Chosen Surveyers of highways were Sworn to ye faithful discharge of their office before the present Selectmen Clerk Elisha Perkins & Lieu^{t} Thomas Baker and Corp^{l} Joseph Town being Chosen fence viewers were Sworn to ye faithfull discharge of their office before ye present Selectmen John Clark and Eben: Nickols being Chosen hogreeves were sworn to ye faithfull Discharge of their Office before ye present Selectmen the persons above Named that were sworn were all sworn on ye fift and on ye Eighth Days of March 1722-3

attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Sarg^{t} Amos Dorman being Chosen Sealer of Leather was sworn to ye faithfull Discharge of that office before ye Selectmen on ye 25 day of March 1723

The free holders and other inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified as ye Law Directs for Voting: are hereby notified to meet at ye meeting house in Topsfield: on Munday ye twentyfift day of March Currant at two of ye Clock in ye afternoon first to Choose and agree with a Schoolmaster. 2ly to see if the Town will give Liberty for Swine to go at Large. 3ly to see if the Town will Lett ye Parsonage to Either of those men that Lately appeared to Hire it or Else return their Earnest money [234] 4ly To

Choose men and impower them to make ye fence about the Parsonage Land in Topsfield, where any person or Persons shall Refuse or neglect, to make his or their proportion of sd fence according to ye Town order at ye Last Town Meeting in Topsfield.

Jacob Robinson Constable of Topsfield

Jacob Peabody by order of ye rest of ye Selectmen of Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on ye 25 of March 1723 Dea^n Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

Mr John Hovey is Chosen Schoolmaster for ye year Ensuing and the Town agreed with s:d Hovey for twenty shillings for being Schoolmaster voted

The Town agreed that Swine may go at Large according as the Law gives Liberty voted

the Town ordered that Samuel Bradstreet should have his money that he Laid down to the Town, as Earnest for ye Parsonage voted

The Town Ordered that Corp^l Eliezer Lake should have his money that he Laid down to ye Town as Earnest for the Parsonage voted

The freeholders and other inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified as ye Law Directs for voting; are hereby Notified, to meet at the meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday ye Eighth of May Currant at two of ye Clock in ye afternoon: first to Chuse a Representative 2ly to Choose jurymen for Ipswich Court; and also to act upon any other thing or things that ye Town shall then think needfull and Proper to be done.

Dat^d Topsfi^d May ye 3^d 1723. Thomas gould
Jacob Robinson Constable. John Howlet
Elisha Putnam
Nathaniel Borman
Jacob Peabody
} Selectmen of Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfi^{d} May: 8th 1723 first Dec^{n} Daniel Redington is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

En: Timothy Perkins is Chosen to Represent the Town at ye General Court at their several Sessions ye year Ensuing: voted

Dec^{n} Daniel Redington is Chosen to Serve on ye grand jury and Edward Putnam and Nath^{ll} Porter are Chosen to Serve on ye jury of Tryals at ye next Superior Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

Boston May ye 7th: 1723 then Rec^{d} of Mr Allen Treasurer four Pounds in Bills of Credit, it being so much due to ye Town of Topsfield, for a Wolf Killed in sd Town: in part for my serving at ye General Court in the year 1722: by order of the Selectmen of Topsfield

I say Rec^{d} by me Daniel Clark

Exam:^{d} and Entred by me Jacob Peabody Town Clerk for Topsfield

Rec^{d} of Thomas Dwinell Constable of Topsfield the sum of four Pounds Nineteen shill^{s} & four pence in full for ye County Rate for ye s:d Towne for ye year 1722

Ipswich may 22: 1723 P John Appleton County treas^{r}

A true Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

[235] At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield Septr ye 10th 1723 Corp^{l} Nath^{ll} Borman & Serg^{t} Zacheus Gould are chosen to Serve on ye Jury of Tryals at the Next Inferior Court to be holden at Newbery within and for ye County of Essex

The freeholders and others inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield such as are Leagally Qualified for voting are hereby Notified & warned to meet at ye Meeting house in Topsfield, on fryday ye Twenty fift day of October Current at Twelve of ye Clock on sd day. first to Agree upon some way and Method for ye fencing in & improveing ye Parsonage Land in Topsfield and for building a house on said Parsonage land

To Chuse men and impower them to Prosecute in the Law any Person or Persons that have Already Dug or Carried of any stones or rocks from of ye above said Parsonage Land: in Topsfield: or that shall hereafter Presume to Dig or Carry of any stones or rocks from of ye above said Parsonage Land: Contrary to ye Town order made on ye fift Day of Last March To give some further instructions or Order to ye Trustees viz Capt Joseph Gould Capt Thomas Baker & Dea John Howlet for their future Proseeding in Leting out ye Towns money: To allow to ye Reverend Mr Joseph Capen Nine pound as formerly. And also to allow bills of charge. and to act upon any of ye Perticulars Above Mentioned as ye town shall then think best.

Dat: Topsfield October the 14 1723

Jacob Robinson Constable — Thomas Gould, Nath^a Borman, Jacob Peabody } Slecetmen of Topsf^d

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield: October ye 25: 1723 first Dea John Howlett is chosen Moderator for this meeting. voted

The Town agreed that ye Trustees viz: Capt Joseph Gould Capt Thomas Baker & Dea^a John Howlett shall Let out ye towns money at one shilling upon the pound for interest: by ye year for the future and to Let out said money but from year to year as they shall receive orders from ye Town. and ye some or Sums of sd money to Let: to be as ye Town hath formerly agreed upon: voted

The Town allowed to ye Reverend Mr Joseph Capen nine pounds to add to his salary for this year voted

the Town alowed to Joseph How one pound three shillings for sweeping ye meeting house one year past voted 01 3 0

The Town alowed to Elisha Putnam a former Constable twelve Shillins and six pence it being an alowance for Nathan Kennes Rates voted 00 12 06

The Town allowed to Jacob Perkins: five shillins & six pence for mending ye Meeting house glass in ye year 1721
voted 00 05 06

the town allowed to Qua^ster Nathl Borman two shillings for giting a warrant Entred at ye Quarter sessions at Newbery this year voted 00 02 00

The Town allowed to mr Jacob Robinson Constable one shilling for warning John Pickit out of Town voted 00 01 00

Boston July, 1^s 1723
Rec^d of Mr David Balch Constable of Topsfield Twenty Pounds twelve shillings & nine pence in full for my Master Jer: Allen Treasurer. £ 20–12–9 P Geor: Rogers

Rec:d of Mr David Balch as Constable for Topsfield for ye year 1722 ye full & just sum of three pounds twelve shillings which he was Ordered by the Selectmen of Topsfield for ye year afore said to Collect & Deliver to me I say rec:d ye sum above said this 12th of March 1722-3 per me Joseph Capen

Topsfield. May 27: 1723: then Rec^d of David Baltch Constable two shillings in full of what was Ordered to me by ye Selectmen. I say recived By me Thomas Gould

These three Recipts Last Entred are true Copies: Examined:

P Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

[236] Topsfield October: 15 1723 Then Rec^d of Constable Balch for serving at the General Court the Sum: sixteen pound seven shillings in full what was Ordered him to Pay me I say rec^d by me

Daniel Clark

Topsfield May ye 18 day 1723 Rece^d of David Baltch Constable ye sum of seven shillings in full which was ordered to me by ye Selectmen for my husband Averills sweeping ye meeting house:

I say reci^d by me ye widow Mary Averill

Topsfield ffebruary: 14: 1722-3 Rec^d of David Balch Constable Nine shillings and Six pense in full of what was ordered to me by ye Selectmen

I say rec^d by me Samuel Howlett

Topsfield August: 17: 1723 Rec^{d} of David Balch Constable ye sum of two shillings & six pence in full of what was ordered to me by ye Selectmen of ye Town I say Rec^{d} by me Elesha Perkins These four Recipts, above Entred, are true Copies: Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

The freeholders & other inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield such as are Qualified as ye Law Directs for Voting are hereby Notified to meet at the meeting house in Topsfield: on Tuesday ye tenth Day of December Current at twelve of ye Clock on s:d Day: first To Chuse an Agent or Agents to Answer to ye Towns Presentment for not being Provided with a grammar School-master. 2^{ly} to agree upon some Method to Improve ye intrest of ye towns Loan money 3^{ly} to allow bills of Charge

Dat: Topsfield Decem^{r}: 4th 1723 Thomas gould } Selectmen
Jacob Robinson Constable of John Howlett } of
Topsfield Jacob Peabody } Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield Decem^{r} 15th 1723. first Dea^{n} John Howlett is Chosen moderator for this meeting voted

Dea^{n} Jno Howlett & Mr. Nath^{ll} Porter are Chosen Agents for ye town to appear at ye next Inferiour Court to be holden at Salem to answer to ye Towns Presentment for not being provided with a grammer Schoolmaster voted

The town agreed that ye Selectmen shall Recive the intrest of ye Towns Loan money of the Trustees: & pay the Towns Debts therewith as far as it will go voted

the Town agreed that ye Selectmen shall raise money to pay ye Representative this year: voted

the Town allowed one shilling to Joseph How for mending ye meeting house Latch voted

Whereas Thomas Demsi was rated in ye year 1722 to Several Rates ye sum of nine shillings & six pence: and sd Demsi then being & still is in his Majesties Service so that ye Constable cannot yet recover sd Demsis rats Therefore the Town allowed to David Baltch Constable, nine shillings & six pence 0 9 6 voted

the Town granted Liberty to Mr Nath[l] Porter Joseph Town & others to sit up a stable near to m[r] Capens fence
voted

The Town granted Liberty to Thomas gould & Cap[t] Joseph gould to set up a stable near y[e] Little Pond on y[e] south of y[e] meeting house voted

Decem[r] 31: 1723 Then Rec:[d] of y[e] Select men by y[e] hand of Thomas gould for part of my wages for going Representative: the sum of Nine pound six shillings: I say rec:d by me Timothy Perkins

Received of mr David Baltch as Constable for Topsfield y[e] full of what was Committed to him to Collect for my use for y[e] year 1722 I say rec[d] in full this 18: Day of feb[ry] 1723-4 per me Joseph Capen

These two receipts Last Entred are true Copies attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

[237] The freeholders & other inhabitants of this Town Such as are Quallified as y[e] Law Directs for Voting are hereby Notified to meet at y[e] meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday y[e] third of March next after the Date hereof at Eight of y[e] Clock in y[e] morning first to Choose a Town Treasurer & other Town officers as y[e] Law directs

To Chuse a Committe to Seat People in the Meeting house

To See if y[e] Town will Chuse a Committe to Settle bounds with Boxford

To agree upon some Method to Improve the Parsonage Land in Topsfield

Dat[d] Topsfiel[d] ffeb[ry] y[e] 18th 1723-4 Thomas gould, Jacob Robinson Constable of Topss[d], John Howlett, Jacob Peabody } Selectmen of Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting of y[e] Inhabitants of Topsfield on y[e] third of March 1723-4

Dec[n] John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for sd meeting
voted

Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y[e] year Ensuing
voted

Eliezar Lake & Edmon Town are Chosen Constables; for ye year Ensuing voted

Nath^{ll} Porter, Dec^{n} John Howlet, Joseph Town, Elisha Perkins & John Hovey are Chosen Selectmen for ye year Ensuing voted

William Porter William Town & John Willds are Chosen Tythingmen for ye year Ensuing voted

En: Amos Dorman is Chosen Sealer of Leather for ye year Ensuing voted

Luke Averill John Town John Dwinell & Daniel Town are Chosen: Sirveyers of highways for ye year Ensuing voted

Joseph Dorman John Willds Thos Robinson & Eben: Nicholls are Chosen fence viewers for ye year Ensuing voted

Joshua Town & John Perkins are Chosen Hogreeves for ye year Ensuing voted

Capt Joseph gould, Capt Thos Baker, Ivory Hovey, Thomas Robinson & Mr Simon Bradstreet, are Chosen a Committe to Seat People in ye meeting house voted

The Town Agreed that the Orders Relating to ye Preseruing the wood & Timber and also the stones or rocks, on the Parsonage Land in Topsfield, that was made in ye year 1723. shall stand good for this year folloing voted

And Thomas Gould Nath^{ll} Borman & Nath^{ll} Porter are Chosen Agents or Attorneys in behalf of ye Town to Prosecute any Person or Persons that shall Presume to Brake Either of ye above sd Orders voted

and the Major part of sd Agents or Attorneys shall act in ye concern about the Parsonage and ye Town to bear them out in all Lawfull Proseedings therein voted

Doc^{t} Michael Dwinell is Chosen to serve on ye grand jury and William Redington & Joseph Robinson are Chosen to serve on ye Jury of Tryals at ye next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

En: Amos Dorman is Chosen Schoolmaster for the year Ensuing voted

the Town agreed to give 20 shillings to En: Amos Dorman for keeping school this year voted

En: Amos Dorman Qu: master Ephraim Willds & En: Timothy Perkins are Chosen A Committe, to Joyn with such men as Boxford shall appoint to Settle the bounds between Topsfield & Boxford voted

The Several Persons Chosen into Office at ye above sd meeting of whom an oath is by Law required: all took ye oath to Their respective Offices on ye third day of march 1723-4 before ye Selectmen attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on ye seventh of Aprill 1724. the Town agreed that swine should go at Large this year according as the Law gives Liberty voted

[238] The freeholders & other Inhabitants of ye Town of Topsfield Quallified for Voting as ye Law Directs are Notified & warned to meet here at ye meeting next Wedensday at three of ye Clock in the after noon it being the thirteenth of May Currant, ffirst to Choose a Representative to serve at the great and general Court. to be hild at Boston on ye Last Wedensday of May Instant 2d To Choose Jurymen to serve at Ipswich Court to be holden on ye third Tuseday of this Instant May

Dat^d Topsfield May 6th 1724

Eliezar Lake Constable of Topsfi^d

Elisha Perkins
Nathl Porter
John Howlet
Joseph Town
John Hovey
} Selectmen of Topsf:

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield May ye 13th 1724 ffirst Dea: John Howlett is Chosen moderator for this meeting voted

Mr John Hovey is Chosen to Represent ye Town at ye general Court the year following voted

Cler: Elisha Perkins is Chosen to serve on ye grand jury & Jacob Town and Joseph Town are Chosen to serue on ye Jury of Tryals at the Next Superiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

We whose names are under written have meet & Perambulated and renewed bounds: Begining at a heap of stones near Mr Porters Meadow and Runing to a Plump of maples and Runing as the Brook runs to a stone & a stake in ye brook near too Robinsons Island: and so runs to a stake and heap of stones on s^{d} Island as ye Line Runs & so to Pigdens meadow and to the River as formerly

May ye 4 1724

Edmond Town David Balch Elisha Perkins	for Topsfield	John Batchelder Benja: ffisk John Gott	for Wenham

A True Copy of ye return. attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield Septr ye 8th 1724 Mr: Simon Bradstreet & John Perkins are Chosen to serve on ye Jury of Tryalls at ye Next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery voted

At a Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Decem ye 15th 1724 Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

The Town allowed to Dea^{n} John Howlett one pound Eighteen shillings sd Howlet having Paid so much for giting ye meeting house glass mended voted 1 18 0

the Town allowed to Corp^{ll} Tobijah Perkins one shilling & six pence for Timber to mend the Bridge near to Luke Averills in 1724 voted 0 1 6

the Town allowed to Nath^{ll} Capen one shilling two pence for two hundred of Lath Nails to nail up ye meeting house glass in 1724 voted 0 1 2

the Town allowed to Dea^{n} John howlet and m^{r} Nath^{ll} Porter two pound five shillings & six pence for Court Charges and their attendance at Salem Court: December 1723 to Answer to ye Towns Presentment for want of a grammer School voted 2 5 6

the Town allowed to Jacob Peabody one shilling sd Peabody having Paid for a Copy of the Sommens to Answer ye above sd Presentment voted 0 1 0

[239] Whereas ye Selectmen warned ffrancis Johnson out of town & got ye warent Entred in ye Court Records the Town allowed to Mr Nath^ll Porter five shillings for giting sd warrent Entred as is above mentioned voted 0 5 0

the Town allowed to Capt Thomas Baker seven shillings & six pence for timber to mend the falls Bridge in 1724 voted 0 7 6

the Town Allowed nine pound to be Added to Mr Capens stated Sallary ye year following voted

the Town allowed five shillings to Clerke Elisha Perkins for giting ye warrent Entred in ye Court Records of Nath^ll Ramsdells being Warned out of Town voted 0 5 0

Lastly the Town agreed that ye present selectmen should recieve the intrest of ye Towns Loan Money of ye Trustees: which is due to the Town for ye year past: and sd Selectmen are to Pay the Town Debts therewith voted

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Jan^ry the 12 1724-5

the Town allowed four shillings & six pence to Luke Averill for timber to mend ye highways in the year 1724 voted 0 4 6

The Town allowed three shillings to Sam^ll Howlett and three shillings to Joseph How for helping M^r: Lord about mending ye meeting house glass in 1724 voted 0 6 0

The Town Allowed two shillings to Joseph Andrew for Timber to mend the Mille Brook bridge in ye year 1723 voted 0 2 0

The Town allowed two shillings & six pence to Constable Eliezer Lake for Warning ffrancis Johnson & Nath^ll Ramsdell out of Town voted 0 2 6

the Town allowed two shillings & Six pence to mr Nath^ll Porter and two shillings and six pence to Corp^l Joseph Town for Perambulating with Salem in 1724 voted 0 5 0

the Town Allowed to Clerk Elisha Perkins David Baulch & Edmon Towne two shillings to Each of them for Perambulating with Wenham men in ye year 1724 voted 0 6 0

the Town allowed twelve pound to mr John Hovey for serving representative sixty days at the General Court in ye year 1724 voted 12 0 0

the Town allowed five shillings to Nath^ll Capen for helping Mr Lord about mending ye meeting house Glass in ye year 1724 voted 0 5 0

Lastly the Town allowed Eighteen shillings to Capt Joseph Gould Capt Thomas Baker and Dea^n John Howlett for their trouble in Leting out ye Towns money the year past voted 0 18 0

Whereas we the Subscribers were ordred & impowered by the Selectmen of Topsfield to Perambulate on the Line and to renew the bounds between Topsfield & Boxford: accordingly meeting at time and Place with Capt Thomas Perley and Lieu^t Joseph Hale who were Likewise appointed by ye Selectmen of Boxford for that service sd Capt Perley & Lieu^t Hale told us that Except We would Promise to go throughout and Renew or Settle the bounds between said Towns according to ye General Court Resolves, they wholly Declined the service: and so gave this as A Reason, that they was informed that the Town of Topsfield had att a Town meeting Chosen a Com:itte for that Purpose: and so we could proseed no farther in order of Perambulation.

Dated ye 12 of May 1724 Jacob Town
John Curtis

This is a True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

The freeholders & other inhabitants of this Town Qualified as ye Law Directs for voting are to take Notice to meet here at the meeting house on ye first Tuseday in march next Ensuing ye Date hereof at Eight of the Clock in ye morning: first to Choose Town Officers as the Law Directs.

To see if the Town will make Choice of a meet person to mend any breach in or on the meeting house as need shall require or to doe any other thing or things as shall then be

thought needful. by order of the Selectmen of Topsfield
Dated Topsfield ffeb:y 19: 1724-5 Nath^{ll} Porter

Edmond Town Constable of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on ye Second Day of march 1724-5
Mr Nath^{ll} Porter is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for the year Ensuing voted

Jacob Dorman and Benj^{a} Town are Chosen Constables for ye year Ensuing voted

John Hovey Jacob Estey William Porter Michael Dwinel and Dea John Howlet are Chosen selectmen to order ye Prudentiall affairs of the Town for ye year Ensuing voted

Joshua Town Jacob Robinson & Thomas Dwinel are Chosen Tythingmen for the year Ensuing voted

En: Amos Dorman is chosen Sealler of Leather for ye year Ensuing voted

Dea^{n} John Howlet Saml Bradstreet and Thomas Gould Richard Town and Thomas Caves are Chosen Sirveyers of highways for ye year Ensuing voted

Corp^{l} Jacob Town Samuel Curtis Tobijah Perkins and Jesse Dorman are Chosen fence viewers for ye year Ensuing voted

John Willds and John Perkins are Chosen to make search into the Turrit of the meeting house to see what repairing it wants and to make Report thereof at ye next Town meeting in Topsfield voted

Cler: Elisha Perkins is Chosen Grand Jury man for ye year Ensuing voted

Tobijah Perkins & Jacob Peabody are Chosen to serve on ye jury of Tryals at the next inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

Mr Simon Bradstreet is Chosen Schoolmaster for ye year Ensuing voted

John Nicholes & and John Burton are Chosen to rebuild Topsfields part of the Bridge over the ye River Near to Edward Putnams between Topsfield and Boxford and to bring their account to the Town when sd Work is Done and they shall be reasonably allowed by ye Town for sd service voted

En: Amos Dorman & Serg^t Tho: Robinson are Chosen hogreeves for ye year Ensuing voted

The Persons Chosen to office at the above s:^d meeting viz. Town Clerk, Constables, Tythingmen, Sealer of Leather, Sirveyors of highways, fence viewers, and Hogreeves all appeared at the house of mr Daniel Clark immediately after ye sd meet[ing] was over and took the oath belonging to their Respective offices before ye Selectmen: Excepting Richard Town

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield on ye 29 day of march 1723 The Town agreed that swine should go at Large: ye year following with as Much Liberty as the Law Allowes of voted

The freeholders & other inhabitants of this Town such as are Quallified according to Law for Voting are to take Notice to meet at ye meeting house on fryday the seventh of May next after the Date hereof at two of the Clock in ye afternoon

To Choose A man to Represent them in the Great & General Court to be holden at Boston the Twenty six day of May next. 2ly To Choose Three good & Lawfull Men to serve upon ye Jury at ye Superior Court to be holden at Ipswich the Third Tuseday of May next one whereof to serve on the Grand Jury and ye other two upon ye Jury of trialls

To see if the Town will Choose A Committee to new seat the People in ye Meeting house

Dated Topsfield Aprill: 28: 1725 John Hovey in ye name and by Order of ye Selectmen of Topsfield

Jacob Dorman Constable

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield May ye 7th 1725
1: Dea John Howlett is Chosen Moderator of s^{d} meeting voted

2: Dea John Howlett is Chosen to Represent the Town at General Court to be holden at Boston on the Twenty sixth Day of this Instant and at their several sessions till s^{d} Court be Desolved voted

Mr Isaac [Peabody?] is Chosen to serve on ye Grand Jury and Capt Tho: Baker & Mr. Tho: Gould are Chosen to serve on ye Jury of Tryalls at ye next Superior Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

Mr Thomas Gould Corp^{l} Eliezer Lake Corp^{l} Jacob Town and Serg^{t} Ivory Hovey are Chosen A Committee to new Seat People in the Meeting house voted

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of this Town Quallified according to Law for voting are to take notice to meet here at the meeting house on Tuseday the 20th of July Currant at two of ye Clocke in the afternoon

To see if the Town will Choose a Committe to see to ye supply of the Pulpit with a Minister: 2ly To see what the Town will Contribute towards the Funeral Charges of ye Reverend m^{r} Joseph Capen late Deceased

and to doe any other thing or things as shall be thought needful

Dated July 7; 1725
Jacob Dorman Constable

William Porter
John Howlett
Jacob Estey
Michael Dwinel
John Hovey
} Selectmen of Topsf^{d}

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield July ye 20th 1725
Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

The Town Did manifest by a vote that they were willing to Choose a Committe to make inquiry after & git a Minister to Dispence the word of God Amongst us for a while

Dea Daniel Redington Dea^{n} John Howlett Cle: Elisha Perkins Serg^{t} Ivory Hovey & En: Amos Dorman are Chosen a Committe to Procure a Minister or Scholar to Dispence the word of God amongst us for Ten weeks from this time & they are to ask advice of the Neighbouring Ministers in order to the procuring a suitable person for said service voted and said Commtte are fully impowered to agree with a minister or Ministers for ye above said service & Term & the Town will pay the Cost voted

the Town agreed to adjourn this meeting voted

the Moderator Ajourned this meeting till the first Tuseday of August next at two of the Clock in ye after noon

At A Lawfull Town meeting held by adjournment from ye 20 of July 1725 to the third day of August 1725 and then met & having Discoursed of how much and in what way to Contribute towards the funeral Charges of the Reverend Mr Joseph Capen Deceased, it was generally Concluded that ye best way was for Every man to subscribe to give what he Pleas^{d} and Ivory Hovey, Joseph Town, & Thomas Robinson are Chosen & Desired by the Town: to go to all the inhabitants of Topsfield not present: to see what they will Contribute towards sd Charges voted

Whereas the Church have agreed upon a fast to be kept on the Eighteenth Currant on ye acount of the awfull breach that God has Latly made amoungst us by taking away our Reverend Pastor by Death: as also to implore the Mercies of heaven for the Obtaining another setteled minister. Therefore the above named Committe for the Ministry are to see that suteable provision be made for such reverend ministers that shall Carry on the work of s^{d} Day or that shall be aiding or assisting therein and the town will pay the charges thereof voted

The free holders and other inhabitants of this Town Quallified according to Law for voting are to take Notice to meet here at ye Meeting house on Wedensday the fifteenth Day of September Currant at Twelve of ye Clock on sd Day

1 To Choose a Committe to see to ye supply of the Pulpit with one to Dispence the word of God to us; 2ly. To allow bills of Charge & to Raise a Tax for the Defraying of Nessacery charges

3ly To Choose Jury men to serve at Newbery Court

4ly To see if the Town will give ruls to the Comitte for seating the People in the Meeting house

John Hovey
Dated Topsfield Sept: 3rd 1725 in ye name & by Order of
Jacob Dorman Constable the rest of ye Selectmen
of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield September ye 15th 1725 1st Mr Isaac Peabody is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2ly The Town Allowed to Ens: Amos Dorman 7:7:6 he having Paid five pound to Mr Hale & two pound to Mr Crocker for Preaching to us since the Reverend Mr Capens Decease: and for other things he found for ye fast voted 7:7:6

3ly The Town allowed to Jacob Peabody 1:1:2 it being for several things for Provision for the fast voted 1:1:2

4ly The Town Allowed to Cler: Elisha Perkins 0:6:6: it being for sundary things for ye fast voted 0:6:6

5ly The Town allowed to Serg^{t} Ivory Hovey 1:5:6 for sundary things for provision for ye fast voted 1:5:6

6ly the Town allowed to Mr John Hovey three shillings for Lamb & spice for ye fast voted 0:3:0

7ly the Town allowed to Dea: John Howlett four shillings & Eleven pence for several things for the fast voted 0:4:11

8ly The Town allowed Nine shillings & six pence to Nath^{ll} Capen for victualing several Ministers on Sabath day 0:9:6

9ly Serg^{t} Thomas Robinson & John Town are Chosen to serve on ye Jury of Tryals at the next inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery for & within ye County of Essex voted

10ly The former Committe for the Ministry viz Dea: Daniel Redington Dea: John Howlett Cler: Elisha Perkins Ens Amos Dorman & Serg^{t} Ivory Hovey are Chosen again to Procure and agree with a Minister to Dispence the word of God unto us untill the first of Jan^{ry} next Ensuing voted

11ly The Town agreed that ye present Selectmen should Levie a Tax of one hundred and twenty pounds for ye Defraying of ye necessary Charges of the Town voted

Boston 31st May 1725

Rec^{d} of Mr Eliezar Lake Constable of Topsfield ffifty one pounds in full for my Master Jer. Allen Treasurer P Zacheus Gould

this is a True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Clerk P george Rogers

Where as Jacob Peabody was Chosen Clerk for the proprietors of the Late Divided & of the undivided Common Land in Topsfield on ye sixth of December 1725: he was sworn to ye faithfull Discharge of sd office before ye Selectmen of s^{d} Town on ye same Day

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield November 1st 1725

1st Capt Joseph Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2ly Mr Isaac Peabody En: Amos Dorman & Jacob Peabody are Chosen a Committe to Reckon with Madam Priscilla Capen and Adjust all the accompts that are betwixt her and ye Town Refering to ye Reverend Mr Capens Sallery & make report thereof to the Town in convenient time

3ly The Town agreed that the intrest of the Towns Loan money shall go to pay ye towns debts voted

The present Selectmen are impowered to receive s^{d} intrest of ye Trustees & Dispose of it to ye afores^{d} use voted

4ly The Town allowed to En^{s} Amos Dorman five pounds five shillings he having paid so much to Mr Osgood for Preaching so amoungst us three Sabath Days voted 5:5:0

5ly The Town allowed to Jacob Averill three shillings & six pence for slabs to mend the bridges near to Dea^{n} John Howletts voted 0:3:6

6ly The Town Allowed to Daniel Gould two shillings & six pence for two Logs to mend the bridge near to Mr John Capens house voted 0:2:6

7ly The Town Allowed to Jacob Peabody three shillings for Timber to mend ye bridge near his house 0:3:0

8ly The Town Allowed to Mrs Mary Baker two shillings & six pence for Timber to mend the Bridge near to Mr Jacob Dormans house voted 0:2:6

9ly The Town allowed to Samll Smith four shillings for Timber to mend ye highways voted 0:4:0

10ly The Town allowed to Corpl Jacob Robinson one shilling for timber for sd use voted 0:1:0

11ly The Town allowed to Capt John How two shillings & six pence for timber to mend ye Bridge near Mr Clarks house voted 0:2:6

12ly The Town allowed to Capt Joseph Gould & Dean John Howlett twelve shillings for their trouble in taking in ye intrest of ye Towns Loan money for ye year past voted 0:12:0

13ly The Town agreed to fence in all ye Parsonage Land in Topsfield according to ye same rule & by the same Ten years Rates that the last Division of Common Land in Topsfield was divided by, voted further the Town agreed that sd Parsonage Land should be fenced in by ye first day of June next with a Good sufficient fence voted

14 Mr Nathll Porter Mr Eliezer Lake and Jacob Peabody are Chosen a committe to apportion and set to Every man his Proportion to fence about said Parsonage Land according to the Rule that is above expresed voted

15 Mr Nath Porter is Chosen a Trustee in ye room of Capt Thos Baker Deceased voted

We the Subscribers the Committees respectively Chosen appointed by the Towns of Ipswich and Topsfield, to Perambulate the Line and renew the bounds between the sd Towns: have accordingly performed the said service, by Peambulating the Line and renewing the Bounds aforesaid; having new marked ye Trees afore marked on ye Line and heaving more stones to the old heaps on the said Line. Witness our hands the Day of novem: anno Domini 1725

John Hovey	for Topsfield	Jonathan Wade	for Ipswich
Thomas Gould		Nathaniel Hart	
		Phillip Fowler	

A True Copy of the return attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

(To be continued.)

VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

BIRTHS.

1910.

Jan. 11. June Elizabeth, dau. of Warren T. and Grace A. (Frame) Tilton.
Jan. 21. Francesca, dau. of Paul and Lucia (Le Caporal) La Cassesse.
Feb. 5. Fanny Forester, dau. of Hiram L. and Mary L. (Murphy) Clay.
Feb. 27. Irene Catherine, dau. of Melvin H. and Beatrice M. (Donnelly) Hicks.
Mar. 12. Hazen Rogers, son of Hazen R. and Mary E. (Deickhoff) Wildes.
Mar. 13. Guiseppi, son of Alphonse and Grazia (Paglia) Roberto.
Apr. 2 Robert Brooks, son of Charles R. and Anne H. (Edwards) Wait.
May 13. Henry Pingree, son of Henry F. and Margaret (Pingree) Long.
May 14. Stanley Dexter, son of Thomas W. and Gabrielle M. (Dexter) Peirce.
May 18. Ruth Ashton, dau. of Fred E. and Hattie E. (Fuller) Watson.
July 29. Mary Elizabeth, dau. of George T. and Elizabeth (Cherry) Beech.
Aug. 5. Clifford Carroll, son of Lewis H. and Elizabeth W. (Carroll) Williams.
Aug. 30. Francesco, son of David and Gesulda (Abbadessa) Gangi.
Oct. 2. Dorothy Pearl, dau. of Ira R. and Callie A. (Clarke) Andrews.
Oct. 8. Walter Archibald, son of James and Ellen (Stoddard) Wood
Nov. 26. Helen Pingree, dau. of Franklin and Helen K. (Smith) Balch.

MARRIAGES.

1910.

Feb. 22. Harry E. Lake (Topsfield), son of Otto E. and Flora E. (Adams) Lake.
Laura A. Liming (Dedham), dau. of Christopher and Drusilla (Ream) Liming.

July 6. Charles A. Pingree (Georgetown), son of Charles H. and Lucy S. (Harris) Pingree.
Mary L. Woodbury (Topsfield), dau. of Isaac M. and Sarah K. (Leach) Woodbury.

Aug. 29. Benjamin D. Hodges (Topsfield), son of Benjamin and Maria R. (Reynolds) Hodges.
Virginia C. Reynolds (Topsfield), son of Mark and Elizabeth (Anderson) Reynolds.

Nov. 7. Walter Farnham (Beverly), son of Charles H. and Lucy (Simpson) Farnham.
Ada M. Phillips (Topsfield), dau. of William N. and Matilda A. (Davis) White.

DEATHS.

1910.

Jan. 19. Abby Eliza, wife of Stephen M. Pierce and dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth (Merrill) Perkins, aged 64 yrs., 9 mos., 4 dys.

Jan. 31. Mary J., widow of John C. Williams and dau. of ——— and ——— (Craig) Harding, aged 73 yrs.

Feb. 6. Frank Alonzo Lord, son of Nathaniel A. and Helen A. (Chamberlain) Lord, aged 54 yrs., 4 mos., 1 day.

Mar. 13. Rebecca Eveline, wife of John B. Lake and dau. of Nathaniel and Pamelia (Gould) Dorman, aged 80 yrs., 9 mos., 20 dys.

Mar. 19. Alfred F. Tilton, son of Josiah B. and Nancy (Adams) Tilton, aged 74 yrs., 11 mos.

Mar. 22. Willaim Perkins, son of Hezekiah B. and Lydia (Ross) Perkins, aged 87 yrs., 5 mos., 18 dys.

Apr. 9. Silas Roberts Burnham, son of Ansell and Elizabeth (Roberts) Burnham, aged 60 yrs., 6 mos., 4 dys.

Apr. 22. Hulda F. Pike, dau. of Benjamin and Hulda (Dorman) Pike, aged 74 yrs., 4 dys.

Apr. 22. Eliza Ann, widow of Alonzo Kneeland and dau. of Moses and Mary (Mason) Welch, aged 75 yrs., 10 months., 22 dys.

May 24. Mabel A., wife of Fred G. Smith and dau. of Calvin W. and Harriet (Gould) Fuller, aged 33 yrs., 16 dys.

July 3. Ephraim Perkins, son of Jacob and Mary (Pratt) Perkins, aged 86 yrs., 6 mos., 27 dys.

July 10. Thomas M. Aitchison, son of Thomas M. and Bella (Aitchison), Aitchison, aged 24 yrs., 1 mo., 27 dys.

July 18. Mary Gammell, dau. of John and Emily (Dechman) Gammell, aged 43 yrs., 5 mos.. 12 dys.

July 24. Gilbert B. Balch, son of Humphrey and Hannah P. (Bradstreet) Balch, aged 54 years 5 mos., 15 dys.

Aug. 5. Henry Ware Lake, son of David and Harriet (Wilkins) Lake, aged 72 yrs., 4 mos., 28 dys.

Sept. 5. Isaac B. Young, son of Isaac and Delia (Tobin) Young, aged 73 yrs., 8 mos., 4 dys.

Sept. 7. Ruth Ashton, dau. of Fred E. and Hattie E. (Fuller) Watson, aged 3 mos., 11 dys.

Oct. 27. Mabel Frances, wife of Albert C. Dick and dau. of Edwin and Sarah (Moore) Adams, aged 44 yrs., 2 mos., 17 dys.

Oct. 28. Amelia Carr Skaden, dau. of Joseph C. and Jane (Saxbury) Skaden, aged 81 yrs.

Nov. 21. Henry R. M. White, son of Manley and Mary Ann M. (White) White, aged 81 yrs., 2 mos., 5 dys.

Nov. 28. Elizabeth Hanson, dau. of Thomas A. B. and Elizabeth (Hanson) Norris, aged 36 yrs., 9 mos., 23 dys.

Deaths in other places, Interment in Topsfield.

1910.

Jan. 26. Joseph Towne, died in Lynn, Mass., aged 84 yrs.

Jan. 28. Annie S. Lamson, died in Hamilton, Mass., aged 68 yrs., 6 mos., 22 dys.

Mar. 12. Alice M. Fuller, died in No. Reading, Mass., aged 39 yrs.

Mar. 28. Benjamin Potter, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 34 yrs.

Apr. 1. Elizabeth H. Lake, died in Peabody, Mass., aged 72 yrs., 9 mos., 4 dys.

May 2. Florence M. Kirk, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 34 yrs.

June 4. William B. Perkins, died in Middleton, Mass., aged 72 yrs., 3 mos., 30 dys.

June 25. Victoria A. Harris, died in Waltham, Mass., aged 53 yrs., 1 mo., 25 dys.

July 12. Augustus T. Billings, died in Malden, Mass., aged 68 yrs., 6 mos., 4 dys.

Aug. 8. Chester M. Striley, died in Salem, Mass., aged 27 yrs., 8 mos., 10 dys.

Sept. 20. Herbert P. Woodbury, Jr., died in Malden, Mass.

Sept. 24. Carrol Mellish Woodbury, died in Malden, Mass., aged 30 yrs., 9 mos., 28 dys.

Dec. 12. Edgar Richardson Walsh, died in Salem, Mass., aged 4 dys.

Dec. 19. Mary Elizabeth Lovett, died in Lawrence, Mass., aged 63 yrs., 5 mos., 16 dys.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1910.

1910.	
February 22.	Streets first lighted by electricity.
April.	David Cummings, of Somerville, descended from Topsfield ancestors, bequeathed to the town of Topsfield, for its poor, $4,000; for the care of the South Side Cemetery, $1,000; and to the Topsfield Historical Society, $2,000.
July 9.	Thomas Aitchison, a carpenter employed on the Pentecost estate, was drowned at Poor's Point, Hood's Pond.
Sept. 20-21.	Annual cattle show and fair of the Essex Agricultural Society held in Topsfield on the grounds of the Society.
October 1.	The post office in Topsfield advanced in grade to the presidential class.
October.	Great drought; 28 families at one time depending upon the town pump for their water supply.

BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1910.

James M. Marsh, Boston St.; residence and garage.
William E. Northey, Prospect St.; addition and alterations to dwelling-house.
Henry F. Long, Summer St.; dwelling-house.
Isaac M. Woodbury, off Haverhill St.; ice-house.
Henry H. Roberts, Main St.; wood-working and carpenters' shop.
George L. Gould, Washington St.; garage.
C. Harry Shoemaker, Ipswich St.; addition to dwelling-house.
Charles P. Potter, off Central St.; carpenters' shop and store-house.
Charles V. Jackman, Pemberton Ave.; house and bakeshop for Italians.
Bradley W. Palmer, Asbury St.; stable-garage.
John S. Lawrence, Ipswich St.; addition to dwelling-house.
Mrs. Lucretia Smith, River St.; addition to dwelling-house.
Mrs. Susan I. Perkins, Washington St.; addition to dwelling-house.
Dr. Edward C. Streeter, Asbury St.; addition to dwelling-house.
Thomas E. Proctor, Perkins St.; the Donaldson barn and out-buildings taken down.

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